



GREEN LIGHT ON TRAVEL VISION

Report by Alex Ross

A 20mph speed limit in Dudley is part of a transport vision for the next 10 years which has been given the green light.

Improvements to the Midland Metro line and the redevelopment of Dudley bus station are also set out in the blueprint approved by the West Midlands Combined Authority.

Entitled Movement for Growth, the strategy sets out the programme for transport projects over the next decade.

Some of the proposals are already under way, including work on a Midland Metro line from Wednesbury to Brierley Hill and the Merry Hill shopping centre.

But there are other major schemes for Dudley borough, including the 20mph speed limit in Dudley town centre and the redevelopment of the bus station.

Dudley Port station could also serve as a Metro stop on the Brierley Hill to Wednesbury line, and would also be improved under the plan.

There are also plans to improve bus journey times and road safety on the Wolverhampton Road and New Birmingham Road toward Dudley.

Prosperity

Councillor Roger Lawrence, lead member for transport at the WMCA, said: "The delivery plan maps out the way forward for transport in this region in delivering future prosperity."

"Now that this blueprint has been approved we can get to work in putting it into action."

"These are exciting schemes that will transform transport in our region and steer investment here to create new jobs and homes, building on the significant growth and development already happening through HS2."

The final plan was compiled after a six-week online public consultation. Funding for the programme is now being pursued.

The West Midlands Combined Authority approved the 2026 Delivery Plan for Transport at a meeting in Birmingham.

CHEERS! ARTIST DESIGNS BEER BOTTLE LABEL



Artist Warren McCabe-Smith, whose artwork is printed on 77,000 bottles of Woodsetton Pale Ale heading for Aldi stores

AN artist has been given the opportunity to showcase his talent with a design to adorn the front of more than 77,000 bottles of a Dudley brew being sold at supermarkets.

Warren McCabe-Smith, 37, from Quarry Bank, approached the owners of Black Country brewery Holdens, as the beer makers

approached their centenary, saying that he would be happy to help them mark the occasion.

He was asked to paint a portrait of the family but at the time he didn't know what his work would be used for. It now takes pride of place on the label of a new ale brought out to

mark the 100 year anniversary, called Woodsetton Pale Ale.

The beer will be sold in Aldi stores nationwide, to the delight of Warren, a fine art graduate from the University of Wolverhampton. He said: "As an artist I really have to work hard to get my name out there."

ACCIDENT

Pensioner dies after van collision

AN 88-year-old woman has died after being hit by an Iceland delivery van in Wordsley. Emergency services were called to Lawnswood Road at around 1.15pm on Friday. The woman was treated by paramedics but she later died in hospital. The driver stopped at the scene and is assisting the police with their investigations.

Sergeant Alan Wood, from the West Midlands Police Collision Investigation Unit, said: "We are appealing to anyone who witnessed the incident to contact us. The collision took place as the pedestrian crossed Lawnswood Road near to the Sainsbury's Local. Our thoughts at this time are with the family." Anyone with information can call the police on 101.

LEISURE

£6m 78-bed hotel to open its doors

A £6 million hotel will open in Dudley later this month. The Travelodge has been built near the Black Country Living Museum on Tipton Road.

The 1.5-acre site was previously occupied by Royal Brierley Crystal. The hotel will have 78 rooms and has created 20 jobs. The latest of the budget chain's hotels to open in the Black Country opens September 21.

EVENT

Foxhound parade at country show

THE Halesowen and Hagley Country Show is this Sunday. It is being held at Fieldhouse Lane in Romsley, organised by Halesowen and Hagley Farmers' Club.

Attractions will include a falconry display, parade of foxhounds, horse show and a fun dog show, craft stalls, food stalls, horticulture marquees, livestock and an 'Ask The Farmer' tent.

INSIDE

DUNCAN SHIRTS STAY IN DUDLEY



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EDITORIAL:
Tel: 01384 353201/01384 353205
E-mail: dudley.chrons@expressandstar.co.uk

SPORTS:
Tel: 01902 319453
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Missed targets could cost £250k

RUSSELLS Hall Hospital is set to lose out on more than £250,000 of funding because it is missing NHS waiting time targets.

Health chiefs in Dudley admit it 'seems likely' they will not receive as much cash from the Government as hoped due to the performance on waiting times.

The number of patients seen within four hours fell to 82 per cent in July from 90 per cent a month earlier. The nationwide NHS target has been set at 95 per cent. Efforts to get patients treated on time were hampered by an extra 100 ambulances arriving at the hospital during July compared with the previous month, bosses said.

Hospitals are awarded money from the Sustainability and Transformation Fund based on their success hitting performance and financial targets.

A report to board members at the Dudley Group NHS Trust, which runs Russells Hall, said: "There is a significant risk regarding the performance against the four-hour target."

"It seems likely that the trust will lose 15 per cent (£0.257 million)."

Diane Wake, chief executive, said: "The trust receives Sustainability and Transformation Fund (STF) money for hitting financial targets and for achieving the four-hour emergency department standard. For the financial year 2017/18, the trust

has the opportunity to earn £8.574m from STF.

"If we don't achieve the four-hour target in quarter two (July to September 2017), we will not receive £257,000 of the available STF funds for 2017/18."

Russells Hall has struggled to cope with the number of patients attending A&E over the last year.

Bosses were forced to issue a plea last winter for people only to attend if they needed emergency treatment.

Waiting times had shown signs of improvement over the last few months but slipped back during July.

Mineshaft will delay £2m treatment centre

THE opening of a £2.6 million emergency treatment centre at Russells Hall Hospital will be delayed due to problems over a mineshaft.

The new centre, designed to take pressure off A&E, could open up to five weeks later than planned as a capped mineshaft at the site must be registered with the National Coal Board.

The facility was expected to open at the start of November to coincide with the busy winter period but health chiefs could now be waiting until just before Christmas before it is finally up and running.

The discovery of the issue with the mine-shaft has thrown a spanner into the works and delayed the opening date of the much-needed centre, possibly until December 11.

The setback was revealed in a report to board members of the Dudley Group NHS Trust, which runs Russells Hall.

Weeks

It said: "We have been notified that the Dudley Emergency Treatment Centre is likely to be delayed up to a maximum of five weeks. The trust's estates team are meeting with the contractors to ascertain if this delay can be reduced."

"The original opening date was to be the November 1, 2017. The best case scenario for the revised timescale is that we can open on November 20, worst case scenario December 11, 2017."

"The reason for the delay is the designation of a capped mineshaft that has to be registered with the National Coal Board prior to the footings of the new build being commenced."

Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust chief executive Diane Wake said: "The completion of our new Emergency Treatment Centre could be delayed by up to five weeks due to additional groundwork. No mineshafts have been identified that could impact on the build."

Fresh call for pallets ahead of bonfire



Jacki Wynn, John Allez and Councillor Ian Kettle are on the lookout for more pallets for the Himley Hall bonfire

THERE'S no smoke without fire and there's no fire without pallets – according to those in charge of Dudley's big bonfire night event at Himley Hall and Park.

Council chiefs have made a fresh appeal to businesses around the Dudley borough for wooden pallets to help stoke the huge bonfire to be lit on November 4 at Himley Park.

Last year, the event's 40th anniversary, saw more than 1,500

wooden pallets used to build the bonfire after an appeal to residents and businesses. The Guy Fawkes night festivities, which also features a fireworks spectacular set to music, regularly attracts around 20,000 visitors.

Council bosses are now appealing to companies for help by donating and delivering unbroken or unwanted wooden pallets.

Councillor Ian Kettle said: "The

fireworks and bonfire display at Himley is the largest council-run display in the country. Every year the event is tremendously supported by local companies donating huge numbers of pallets and we hope this time it will be no different."

He added that garden rubbish and old furniture could not be accepted. Call (01384) 817817 if you have pallets to offer.

Food supplier is fined over infestation of rodents

A FOOD supplier has been made to pay more than £16,000 after a rat and mouse infestation was discovered at its warehouse.

Pearl Food Distribution, in Oldbury, was temporarily closed down after droppings were found on packaged food and drinks. Packages had also been gnawed into and food safety chiefs said there was an 'imminent risk to health'.

Investigators found widespread droppings on top of pallets containing chicken, flour, vegetable oil and canned soft drinks in April 2016 at the wholesaler, which supplies takeaways, Wolverhampton Magistrates Court heard.

Company director Ageel Shah, who appeared in court on behalf of Pearl Food Distribution, claimed as they did not own the building on the Imex Industrial Estate, Union Road, it was down to the landlords to fill in holes that were allowing rodents to get in.

But Mr David Elliott, prosecuting on behalf of Sandwell Council, said: "It was the company's overriding responsibility if an issue could have compromised food safety that it should have been dealt with."

The company was fined £12,000 with costs of £4,400 after pleading guilty to seven food safety and hygiene charges.

Mr Sukhdip Randhawa, defending the company, which has since moved to a new premises in Smethwick, said: "As far as harm goes, it was not open to the general public."

Fizzogs fly out to the 'Big Apple'

COMEDY troupe The Fizzogs are swapping the Black Country for the Big Apple as they are to perform in New York's Times Square

The comedy group, best known for their act The Dancing Grannies, have won lots of fans in American after their video of the grannies' dance routine went viral on the internet.

Fizzog Deb Nicholls said: "We are just going to rock up and see how New York reacts to us."

The trio, who regularly perform at events and venues in Dudley, also includes Jacky Fellows and Sue Hawkins.

Pub being turned into seven flats

A FORMER pub in Brierley Hill will be turned into flats after the plans were given the go-ahead by Dudley Council.

The Railway Inn, in Fenton Street, Brierley Hill, will be converted into seven apartments after an application by Maxwell Scott was approved.

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Club reopens but makes promise on funeral date

CHICAGO'S nightclub in Stourbridge town centre reopened on Friday, almost exactly a month after popular Black Country footballer Ryan Passey was stabbed to death on the premises.

The 24-year-old from Brierley Hill was fatally wounded at the club on August 6.

The venue was shut following a temporary licence suspension in the wake of the attack, but Dudley Council licensing bosses ruled the club could reopen with tightened security and safety checks.

Ryan's family and friends have launched a petition calling for the club to be closed down permanently. More than 3,500 have signed the petition.

A spokesperson for Chicago's confirmed that it would not be open on September 22, the date of Mr Passey's funeral at St James's Church in Wollaston.

Fellow Wolves fans paid tribute to Mr Passey with a minute of applause before the match against Millwall at Molineux on Saturday.

At Birmingham Crown Court last week, Kobe Murray, of The Broadway, Dudley entered a plea of not guilty to one count of murder.

The 19-year-old has been remanded in custody until January 24, when his trial, which is expected to last for two weeks, is due to start.

PM is urged to act on ivory ban

DUDLEY North MP Ian Austin is calling on Prime Minister Theresa May to impose a total ban on the ivory trade in the UK - after a pledge to do so was dropped from the 2017 Conservative manifesto.

If the rate of killing continues as it is, elephants could be extinct in many parts of the wild within 15 years, said the Labour MP.

Mr Austin said: "Clearly something needs to be done to stop the killing of thousands of elephants at the hands of poachers each year.

"It's wrong that the Tories dropped their pledge for a total ban in the UK so I'm backing the campaign by Action for Elephants to put it back on the agenda. I have also called on China to end the illegal ivory trade."

Charity cafe opens

AGE UK Dudley has opened a community cafe and charity shop in Sedgley. The Sedgley hub in Ettymore Road is open 9.30am to 4.30pm from Monday to Saturday. More information is available on (01384) 883847.

Hundreds smile for Joel's charity at run



Suzy Evans and Owen Richards at the run

HUNDREDS of runners turned out for a celebration remembering the lives of three members of a family who were killed in the Tunisia beach terror attack.

It was on your marks, get set, go at Sandwell Valley Country Park where around 1,000 people got into their running shoes to raise funds for Smile for Joel.

The charity was set up by the family of victims Joel Richards, Adrian Evans and Patrick Evans, who were all from the Black Country.

It was an an emotional day for

Suzy Evans, from Wednesbury, who lost her son, brother and father in the 2015 attack, and her son Owen, who survived the atrocity, after so much hard work making the event possible.

Races

Run for Joel featured two competitive races, one 5km and the other 3km, while there was also a fun run for the youngsters. Thousands of pounds were raised for the charity, which supports families who have lost loved ones in tragic circumstances.

The final total is not yet known but

the weekend runs followed last year's event, which raised £27,000.

Friends and family rallied round, with one couple, Adam and Trudy Russell, from Wednesbury, even cutting short their honeymoon in Ibiza so they could make it.

Families of other victims, and survivors, also attended the event.

Joel, 19, was a talented football referee. His uncle Adrian, 49, a Sandwell Council worker from Bilston, and grandfather Patrick, 78, died alongside him in the terror attack which killed 30 British holidaymakers.

Motorist who hit people on crossing is jailed

A SPEEDING motorist who mowed two pedestrians, seriously injuring both, has been jailed for two years.

Stuart Knowles, aged 49 and Sharon Homer, 54, were both hurled more than 50ft when struck by the Astra driven by 22-year-old Ahsa Mehmood.

The motorist from Quarry Bank did not stop immediately although he did return soon after to give his details to police at the scene, Wolverhampton Crown Court was told.

Experts estimated from CCTV that Pizza Hut manager Mehmood was doing 50mph in a 30mph zone moments before the collision and was still travelling at between 27 and 34 mph when the Astra hit the pair.

Mr Gareth Walters, prosecuting, explained that the traffic light controlling the crossing was in favour of oncoming traffic when the pedestrians tried to get to the other side of Rowley Regis High Street shortly after midnight on New Year's Eve.

The defendant braked when he saw them but stopped slowing down, thinking he could get past without hitting them. The pair were more than half way across when they saw the speeding Astra and tried to get out of the way.

"They were thrown 16 metres," said the prosecutor. Mr Knowles received multiple fractures of the skull together with injuries to his spine and a broken leg. Miss Homer had a broken pelvis and fractures to a rib and vertebrae.

Mehmood from Coppice Lane, who had not been drinking and was of previous good character, pleaded guilty to causing serious injury by dangerous driving. He is banned from driving for two years on release.



Ahsa Mehmood - sent to prison for two years

Orchestra devastated by theft



Thieves stole equipment from the Black Country-based People's Orchestra - even taking their tea bags!

AN orchestra has been left reeling after robbers took thousands of pounds worth of equipment, which had been locked in the back of their van.

A public address system, cables, wires and IT equipment were all snatched from the vehicle belonging to The People's Orchestra. The thieves even took a box of teabags.

It is the second time the West Bromwich-based charity has suffered a setback in recent months, after a large number of music stands were stolen from a car.

The latest crime happened in Halesowen over the weekend and discovered as orchestra members set off for rehearsals in Birmingham on Sunday.

Managing director Sarah Marshall has estimated that the stolen equipment could cost as much as £2,000 to replace.

She said: "It's truly heartbreaking."

To help get back on their feet, the charity has set up a fundraising page online.

Visit gofundme.com/sbsd-somone-stole-our-teabags to donate.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Trouble-hit church appeals for funds

A CHURCH in Dudley hit by theft and anti-social behaviour is urging the public to help raise vital funds.

St John's Church in Kates Hill is launching the '177 Regular Givers' scheme, so supporters can donate a set amount to the preservation group every month. It comes as part of the church's 177th anniversary. It was reopened last year after it closed in 2002 over safety issues.

Recent thefts have seen the church close their charity sale room at the site. Louts were also spotted spitting and vomiting by a war plaque.

To offer support contact Deb Brownlee on 0787 119 5042.

Washing machine blamed for blaze

A FAMILY fled from their home in Brierley Hill after a fire was sparked by a washing machine.

The blaze started in the garage and spread to the kitchen at the house in Baxter Road at around 5.50am Sunday.

Two adults and two children got out before fire crews arrived and rescued a dog.

Crews from Brierley Hill Fire Station confirmed the fire was caused by a washing machine in the garage of the property. Both the garage and kitchen were damaged.

Derelict eyesore sold for £200k

A DERELICT pub targeted by vandals has been sold at auction for £200,000.

The Samson and Lion, in Newbolt Road, Bilston, closed more than 15 years ago and has been derelict since. It is now hoped the new owner will breathe new life into the eyesore as it was sold with planning permission for 10 homes.

It was auctioned off last Wednesday by agents SDL Bigwood. Planning permission has already been granted for two one-bedroom apartments and five two-bedroom apartments as well as three two-bedroom houses.

Archives want photos for local history day

A LOCAL history day is being held into October 7 at Dudley Archives and Local History Centre in Tipton Road from 10am to 4pm.

Organisers are asking people to bring along photographs and documents about soldiers from the borough to be copied to add to the centre's impressive collection.

There will be displays by family and history societies from the area and behind-the-scenes tours.

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Tata Steel company unveils £2m offshore investment

TATA Steel has announced a near £2 million investment programme to build a new generation of offshore products. The company said the move emphasises its commitment to supporting North Sea oil and gas production.

The investment will be made in its Hartlepool and Port Talbot plants. It follows major investment at its major Black Country operation, the Steelpark at Wednesfield, which is the hub of Tata Steel's processing and distribution operations.

Air raids on Black Country is history topic

A SECOND World War history talk focusing on enemy action in the Black Country will be taking place at the end of the month.

The next Black Country Society lecture will be held on September 27 at The Portal, the Dudley Canal Trust HQ on Birmingham New Road at 7.30pm.

Peter Kennedy will be talking about air raids that took place over the Black Country in the Second World War.

The lecturer has made a study of the topic and will look at the frequency, the targets and the impact of the raids during a critical time in the war. Admission is £2 and non members are welcome to attend.

Stourbridge Family History Group has a Family History Group Open Research Evening on Tuesday at St Peter's Centre, Pedmore Lane, Pedmore, from 7pm. Advice will be given on researching family history.

Earlier this year it unveiled a £4 million investment into building a new robot welding line at Wednesfield which will produce two million car parts a year.

The site employs around 525 people, with more working at Tata Steel sites in Walsall and Brierley Hill. Tata Steel has sold off a string of sites in recent years but still employs around 8,500 people around the UK.

Pensions

The company also recently sealed a major pensions deal with unions and the trustees of the British Steel Pension Scheme, which has around 125,000 members, in return for agreements on job security and a £1bn investment plan.

The latest investment project at its Hartlepool steel mill will enable the company to produce a new generation of higher strength offshore construction pipes.

Barry Rust, energy and sustainability manager at Tata Steel, said: "These important investments demonstrate Tata Steel's continued commitment to health and safety and improving and increasing our product range to the North Sea and the oil and gas industry around the world, to help it meet ever-increasing challenges."

Nick is the champion black pud thrower



Black Pudding Throwing Champion Nick Pennell celebrates Photo: Phil Taylor

THE West Midlands has a new world champion – in the sport of black pudding throwing.

Nick Pennell, 45, from Wombourne, has visited the market town of Ramsbottom, near Bury in Lancashire, for the last four years to compete in the official World Black Pudding Throwing Championship.

Having come close to taking home the crown of best thrower, Nick took his efforts to a new level this year and beat competitors from all over the world to claim the top prize.

The sport involves competitors standing 20 feet away from a 20ft high plinth with 12 Yorkshire puddings placed at the top. To win, they must knock down as many Yorkshire puddings as possible by throwing a six and a half ounce black pudding that has been wrapped in tights.

As the day neared its close, four competitors were tied on three, before Nick stepped up to the plate and took five down.

The IT worker said of his success: "I just made sure my arm was nice and loose ready for my throw."

"Me and my friends come down every year because it is a great day out and it is a real English eccentric activity," he said. "Where else could you get away with standing in the street throwing black puddings at Yorkshire puddings? I celebrated with a few pints with the lads and I can say that I will 100 per cent be back to defend my crown next year."

Girl, aged 4, was attacked in a church

A TEENAGER who carried out a sex attack on a four-year-old girl inside a church has not been given a jail term.

Judge Nawaz told the teenage boy, who cannot be named for legal reasons, that if he had been an adult he could have received a life sentence.

The 17-year-old was looking after the child when the attack took place, Wolverhampton Crown Court was told. The victim of the assault at a church in Cradley Heath has been left 'scared and extremely upset', the court heard.

Miss Raj Poona, prosecuting, said the offence came to light when the victim told her mother what had happened and the teenager was arrested.

Mr John Dove, defending, said the attack was a 'moment of madness' from the teenager. He said probation reports on the teenager concluded he posed a low risk of re-offending.

Sentencing the teenager, Judge Amjad Nawaz said he needed to be given support and guidance to ensure he would not offend again.

The judge said the girl had been left in his care by her parents and what he did had severely affected her life.

He admitted assaulting a girl aged under 13 and was given a two-year youth rehabilitation order. He will be under supervision for two years and registered as a sex offender for 30 months.

Zoo's Raptor Day is a flyaway success

DUDLEY Zoo's Raptor Day has been hailed a flyaway success raising almost £870 at the Castle Hill attraction.

Thousands of people visited the castle courtyard to see birds of prey and keepers spoke about the threats facing British species, such as the barn owl and kestrel, at the event organised by keeper Kriss Pearson

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JLR sales down as new car trade slows

SALES at Midlands-based Jaguar Land Rover declined as trade in new cars in Britain fell for the fifth successive month in August.

New car registrations fell by 6.4 per cent in August compared with the same month in 2016, with 76,433 vehicles taking to the road for the first time last month according to the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders.

Jaguar Land Rover, which has an engine plant alongside the M54, saw sales fall. There were 565 new Jags sold last month, representing a 21.75 per cent drop on the same month a year ago, while Land Rover sales were 3.94 per cent lower with 1,512 cars sold over the month.

Some 1.64 million new cars have been sold so far during 2017, representing a decline, down by 2.4 per cent on the first eight months of 2016.

In the year-to-date Jaguar sales remain ahead by 16.02 per cent with 23,155 cars sold, and Land Rover sales stand at 52,452 – 7.01 per cent up on last year.

The cars include various parts made around Shropshire, including engines from the i54 plant beside the M54.

SMMT Chief Executive Mike Hawes said: "August is typically a quiet month for the new car market as consumers and businesses wait for the new number plate in September."

Outline plan for horse paddock is withdrawn

PLANS for a horse paddock to be created near Halesowen have been withdrawn.

The application was made for a site at the corner of Hawne Lane and Belle Vale in Cradley.

But the application was withdrawn September 6 after the proposal for outline planning permission was submitted in June.

Lawyers examining police files in the McIndoe case

Blood Brothers to mark theatre's 70th



Flora Deeley, Ellis Dacker and Ray Curran rehearse for Dudley Little Theatre's Blood Brothers production later this month

THE Dudley Little Theatre gets its 70th anniversary under way in style with Willy Russell's drama Blood Brothers.

The adaptation marks the Nether-ton-based theatre's anniversary after it opened in October 1947. Since then the amateur group has produced hun-

dreds of popular shows. To mark the occasion, the theatre offered its 60 members a chance to decide on this season's productions by voting for their four favourite plays the group has performed out of around 350 productions.

Blood Brothers, A Christmas Carol,

Deep Blue Sea and Allo Allo! came top.

Tony Stamp, who acts and directs, said: "Willy Russell wrote two versions of Blood Brothers, this is the non-musical version though there's still a bit of singing and dancing." Blood Brother runs September 20 to 23. See www.dudleylittletheatre.org website.

PROSECUTORS are looking at police files into a failed investment scheme linked to ex-Wolves star Michael McIndoe.

Sources close to the investigation say a top Crown Prosecution Service lawyer is examining the case following an inquiry by Scotland Yard. McIndoe, aged 37, was quizzed under caution by fraud squad detectives from the Metropolitan Police earlier this year.

He headed up a scheme which offered investors 20 per cent interest a month on their initial investments. A source said: "We are at a key point and there are a lot of people hoping to hear some developments soon."

McIndoe was declared bankrupt in 2014 and in documents at bankruptcy hearings it was revealed he owed 17 men nearly £3.5 million.

Five Wolves players are estimated to have lost £2.6m in the failed scheme with one group of players from the club handing over more than a million pounds in one payment in 2011.

Profits

Others to lose money include young footballers who were formerly at Walsall and Kidderminster Harriers.

The scheme was at its height during 2010 and initially investors got their money back and the profits. But by the end of 2011, money was in short supply and the payments stopped during the same season Wolves were relegated from the Premier League.

McIndoe denies any allegation of wrongdoing. He told a bankruptcy hearing that he had no money or bank accounts. No arrests have been made and no wrongdoing is implied.

It is believed McIndoe, has told insolvency experts that 'a friend' is helping him with his legal fees after he was declared bankrupt in October 2014. He has denied any wrongdoing and told a bankruptcy court he was a 'professional gambler'.

No time to paws for dog wash record

A DOG groomer from Brierley Hill wants pets to help them take part in a Guinness World Record attempt.

The Groom Room at Pets Home in Brierley Hill wants to raise money for Support Adoption For Pets when they join 84 other salons recruiting local dogs to help them take part in a Guinness World Record attempt, all whilst raising money to help re-home pets across the UK. The record attempt is on Saturday aiming to beat the current record of 5,000 dogs washed in a 12-hour period.

Norma Robinson, salon manager at Merry Hill's Groom Room said: "We're really excited to take part in this Guinness World Record attempt, and with all the proceeds going towards helping homeless pets, it really makes the whole thing worthwhile."

To book your dog in for a £5 wash and take part in the Guinness World Record visit www.petsathome.com

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IN MY VIEW

with Mark Andrews



Rubbish system of these bin police

SOME things restore your faith in our public services, while others just leave you tearing your hair out.

On Saturday, I called in at my public library bang on 4pm, just as the doors were being locked. "Sorry, we're closed," said the librarian, which was fair enough. While it seems absurd that libraries now shut in mid afternoon, I knew the opening times, and had left it too late.

However, when I politely asked if I could return my books, she reluctantly relented, and I was out at 4.01pm. Nobody was really inconvenienced, and I went away with a higher opinion of the staff.

Now compare this with the "bin-spectors", who appear to be making a comeback across the region. Two local councils in the West Midlands recently announced they are employing folk to prod around our dustbins to see what is inside. Some people have reportedly been sent the characteristically pompous letters, in their trademark John Prescott grammar and pseudo-legalistic gobbledegook, threatening residents with fines of up to £2,500 and criminal records should they persist putting their rubbish in the wrong container.

These two stories show a marked contrast between the different attitudes which exist in local government. In the first instance, the librarian recognised that public service meant serving the public, in other words giving the punters what they want.

On the other hand, the "bin-spectors" – they hate that term by the way – and moreover, their employers, believe their role involves telling us what to do, or "changing attitudes and perceptions".

They are wrong. The council's job is to empty the bins. Not tell us how to use them.

□ □ □

AFTER losing a bet, Birmingham City fan Joe Lombardi agreed to have a picture of Harry Redknapp leaning out of his car window tattooed on his ankle.

I've never really got the appeal of tattoos. If I'm going to allow my body to be used as an art gallery or advertising hoarding, the least I expect is for the exhibitors to pay for the space. Indeed, it could be a nice little earner, selling parts of your body for commercial sponsorship. I'm sure if the price is right, I can be persuaded to have Bill's Pizza or Acme Double glazing etched onto my bum.

But given that Blues are on their third manager in nine months, you can't help but think Joe will regret his decision sooner rather than later.

Wouldn't you just love to see Joe's face if Harry crossed the city to Aston Villa?

New warning of ballistic missiles getting closer



Florence Parly – warning over North Korea and building of ballistic missiles



Kate Middleton – expect lots of coverage as baby number three is on the way



Jeremy Corbyn talks proudly of defending "the right to a nomadic way of life."

Another good reason to get out of Europe

THE French defence minister, Florence Parly, warns that North Korea may be closer than anyone thought to building ballistic missiles capable of hitting Europe. Another good reason to be leaving.

HOW justice works. On the day this week that local councils unveiled plans to slap £2,500 fines on householders who overload their wheelie bins, the Ministry of Justice revealed that 437 people who admitted crimes including blackmail, kidnap, rape and child abuse have been let off with a caution. Surprised? Nah, me neither.

I SWITCHED on Call You and Yours (Radio 4) to hear a particularly nauseating example of that dreadful modern language we might call social workerese. A caller, close to tears, described how her family had been shattered by the sudden death of a little child. The interviewer replied: "It must change the family dynamic." Ye gods and little fishes.

ANOTHER family dynamic is being changed. "We just can't wait to meet baby number three!" gushes the Daily Mail as Kate and William announce another pregnancy. Who might this "we" be? Even those of us who support a constitutional monarchy have had quite enough from the Windsor photo-opportunity factory for one year, thanks. On top of Prince Philip's retirement, Princess Di memories and wall-to-wall coverage of Kate and his girl, endless dissection of Kate's progress will give us all morning sickness.

ACCORDING to the latest British Social Attitudes Survey, for the first time ever more than half of adult Brits claim to follow no faith. Hal-

THE BEST OF PETER RHODES



lelujah. Losing our religions may be one of the main benefits of a multicultural society. There was a time when we all believed that kindness and charity flowed from the assortment of gods, prophets, saints and holy men we chose to worship. But in today's Britain we see people helping at disasters and being inspired not by Bronze Age superstitions but by common human decency. It is a sobering moment the first time a religious person sees an atheist putting his or her life on the line for others. To do good in the belief that you will be rewarded in heaven is fine. But doing good for its own sake, with no expectation of harps, angels and eternity, has got to be better. Religion divides, humanity unites.

AND off to the optician for a new treatment. This involves a tiny vibrator which is run along the rims of your eyelids, tickling your lashes and scattering the accumulated crud and eye-mites of many years. Ordeal by eyelid-tickler feels exactly as it sounds and if you don't squirm like a serpent and laugh like a drain throughout, then your giggle buttons probably need adjusting. It reminded me of that unfortunate incident at the dentist's as a small boy (when I was a small boy, that is, not the dentist). He was running the high-pressure water jet around my molars when he suddenly touched one end of a nerve which ran deep into the body. I instantly wet myself. I don't recall anybody laughing.

FROM time to time things go terribly wrong.

TALKING POINT



Loyalty to fat cats is costing our grannies

HOW would you feel if you heard that someone had ripped off your granny for £500? Then you found out that they had been dipping into her finances on an annual basis.

We are not talking about an opportunistic purse thief or even some doorstep con artist. This is happening perfectly legally... and it's a disgrace.

The culprits? The insurance industry. The fat cats who run this multi-billion pound industry know full well that many of their elderly loyal customers don't know their iPad from their elbow.

Apologies to the savvy silver surfers, but in an ageing society where many live into their 80s, 90s or even long enough to get a letter from the Queen, there are thousands of elderly people who never go online.

They don't own a computer and probably don't want to. It is difficult to tap away at a keyboard with arthritic fingers or peer at a screen when your eyesight is not what it was.

Many of these people belong to a generation when it was considered shameful to owe money or to even be late paying a bill. How times change.

But this means that they often fall foul of the automatic renewal, when the insurance company offers you another year of 'the same great cover' without any bother. Avoiding the 'bother' can prove costly, especially as loyalty appears to be a one-way street when it comes to the insurers.

Year on year those buildings and contents premiums increase. A person who set up a direct debit years ago could easily be paying £500 over the average deal available elsewhere.

Back in 2013, The Financial Conduct Authority (FCA) admitted automatic renewal leads to customers being treated unfairly. But still it goes on.

New rules introduced this year have forced insurers to tell buyers at the renewal stage what their premium was the year before. The FCA say that measure alone should save consumers more than £100m, by alerting them to the scale of the premium increase.

But this will not alert everyone to how much less they could be paying for the same cover elsewhere.

The elderly are probably the worst hit group but any loyal customer who doesn't make price comparisons can be preyed on in this way. It is time our MPs took on the insurance industry to end this cynical exploitation.

Check your policy, particularly if you pay by direct debit and, if you have elderly relatives or friends, check their policy too.

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Decent people are no longer valued

AFTER having chats with friends and neighbours, we have reached the conclusion that decent honest people are no longer valued in this country.

Decisions are being made by the new rich on things which no one really wants except the powerful lobby. For example, HS2.

Who is this being built for? Not the ordinary folk who won't be able to afford to travel on it anyway; disrupting many and forcing people to move from homes they may have worked hard for

all their lives; ruination of flora and fauna.

None of these projects is ever delivered on time, or on budget.

Tower blocks being designed and built with only one staircase in case of emergency, what good is this?

Criminals getting the soft treatment as a result of their crimes. For example, driving while disqualified with no insurance and killing an innocent person with a vehicle. Surely this should be murder as a motor vehicle in the

wrong hands is a lethal weapon? A few years of disqualification is just laughable, as most of these people will no doubt do the same thing again because of the leniency given them. Is it not also about time that cyclists should be insured as a matter of course?

As a disabled person, my scooters are both insured.

I could go on but I am sure that you get my drift.

LEN HALES
Cradley Heath

Speed limit is in place for a reason

IS it me getting older or do we really have a problem with speeding motorists on our local roads?

My trips around the area seem to get more hair-raising every day, especially the Dudley Southern Bypass, which has a maximum speed of 40mph. Cars pass me all the time at what seems more like 60mph and undertaking is commonplace especially during the evening rush hour.

If I see this every day, why do the police not act? Let's not wait for a serious accident before action is taken, all it needs is mobile cameras along the route.

But it is not just that road, everywhere speed limits are ignored except for the places where there are static cameras. Speed limits are there for a reason, and are the maximum speed given ideal conditions. Any fool can push their right foot down but there is nothing clever about going fast. Safety is the key.

RON GWILLIAMS
Brierley Hill

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

POST

Dudley Chronicle,
Chronicle Editorial,
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EMAIL

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Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

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Start to cut the debt with wages at BBC

WE are the fifth richest country in the world they say – but we owe £1.73 trillion. Now my major concern is the payments to BBC staff. The salaries recently highlighted are ridiculous.

The highest paid woman, who I believe is the daughter of a former media mogul, makes you wonder why all these highly-paid women have complained about equal pay with men – I trust they want men's pay to be reduced to the women's. The reason they, all of them, are paid so extravagantly is because the BBC gets so much public money. This money is given to them by a tax on a television licence which the Chancellor of the Exchequer could divert to the NHS and allow the BBC a more reasonable amount. There are plenty more TV stations so viewers won't go short.

W ROUND
Kingswinford

Anything to say on HS2 Gavin?

I DON'T suppose I am alone in wondering what planet South Staffordshire MP Gavin Williamson is on.

First he pats himself on the back for the possible relocation of D X Freight from Essington, loss of jobs and revenue to the area.

What is it about Essington? Only claim to fame – fruit farm and a boot sale.

Now he wades in with his support against further industrial development to create 8,500 jobs plus by 'Four Ashes Ltd' a proposal to create a rail/road freight hub – much-needed.

I do so hope Four Ashes are successful led by Peter Frost. Oh, Peter, as a former lorry driver, please don't forget a good hard surface LGV park and good food and ancillary services for drivers.

Memo to Mr Williamson – what about the carnage caused by HS2, or have you been told to keep quiet about this white elephant?

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FIVE MINUTES FROM MERRY HILL



Tony Mason, from Halesowen, at Dudley Coroner's Court



Ikram Rafique in St Matthew's bell tower



Trainee curator Holly Godward at the Black Country Living Museum



James Nicholls from Wednesfield with volunteers at Moseley Old Hall



Alison Hyatt and Anne Willetts at Haden Hill



Kim Tedstone and Brooke Whitehouse visit the coroner's court

Autumn fun is planned by the National Trust

THE National Trust has announced a series of events taking place in the West Midlands this autumn.

Orchard Day will be celebrated at Dudmaston Hall, near Bridgnorth, on October 15 with lots of apple produce available.

Between October 21 and October 31 Wightwick Manor and Gardens, Wolverhampton, will host Family Halloween Half Term Fun with children invited to don their most frightening fancy dress and take part in an outdoor pumpkin trail.

At Kinver Edge on October 23 there will be apple-pressing and hands-on crafts at the Trust's Rock Houses. On October 24 and 26 the same site will host lantern-making sessions before a procession of lights and pumpkins in the woods at Kinver Edge.

There will be a Pumpkin Festival at Moseley Old Hall from October 23 to October 29 where people can carve pumpkins and take the insides home.

A spokesperson for the National Trust, said: "Autumn is the perfect time to get outside with the family and create unforgettable moments.

"With all kinds of events from fancy dress to pumpkin-carving to lantern-making, it'll be impossible for the kids to get bored this autumn half-term."

Sir Simon coming back to Birmingham

INTERNATIONALLY-ACCLAIMED conductor Sir Simon Rattle is to return to Birmingham, the city where he made his name with the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra in the 1980s and 90s.

The 62-year-old has been principal conductor of the Berlin Philharmonic since 2002 and is becoming musical director of the London Symphony Orchestra (LSO) this month.

He brings the LSO to Symphony Hall for Mahler's Ninth Symphony on May 1. See www.thsh.co.uk website.

Building on the past at open days

HISTORIC buildings in the Black Country gave visitors a unique insight into the past at a series of open days over the weekend.

Sites such as the Black Country Living Museum, Haden Hill Museum and Dudley Coroner's Court took part in Heritage Open Days, a nationwide effort to celebrate the history and culture behind some of the area's oldest buildings.

At the Black Country Living Museum on Tipton Road, Dudley, curators showed some of the sites of hidden treasures, offering a chance to find out the stories that lie behind some lesser-known pieces of the 80,000 objects stored at the museum.

At Haden Hill Museum on Halesowen Road, Cradley Heath, an afternoon of live jazz was organised, where Union Jack flags flew proudly, as the venue itself was opened up for people to see in all its glory.

Guests were given a chance to unlock and discover some of the secrets of the attic and store rooms at the Victorian gentleman's residence.

At Moseley Old Hall, near Wolverhampton, visitors were thrown straight into the middle of an historic adventure from the building's past. For just 70 hours in 1651 Moseley Old Hall protected the future King of England, Charles Stuart, from discovery by Parliament soldiers during the civil war. Fearing for his life, the

future King Charles II hid, helped by a family with Royalist sympathies after his army was defeated at the Battle of Worcester.

Costumed characters brought the story to life over the weekend, with visitors getting in on the action, too.

A rare opportunity for people in Dudley was the chance to see inside the Grade II listed Coroner's Court, in St James's Road, Dudley.

It was designed by Harvey and Wicks and built between 1924 and

1928 as part of a group of civic buildings which also includes the Town Hall and the Memorial Tower. The courtroom has remained largely unchanged and retains its original fittings and furnishings.

In Walsall, people had a chance to step back into the past at the Locksmith's House on New Road, Willenhall, or visit the tower at St Matthew's Church in Walsall.

Nationally, Heritage Open Days involves 5,000 events.

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Brass in charity's pocket after band tours cities

MUSICIANS went two and a half days without sleep to complete 52 performances in 62 hours – raising cash to the tune of more than £5,000.

The group, including Halesowen musicians Mark Sharman and Nicola Redhead, had set a target of £4,000 from the challenge of playing in every English city for 10 minutes.

Starting and ending at Birmingham, they performed in the Second City twice, making it 52 performances in all. They travelled across 2,000 miles and collected £5,100 for Cancer Research UK.

Others in the group were Darren Selby from Great Wyrley, Stafford Grammar School's director of music, Gavin Lamplough, Andrew Dickinson of Tamworth and Halesowen pair Mark Sharman and Nicola Redhead.

Trumpets

Mr Lamplough said: "It was brutal. We never thought it would be so tough. We were literally going non-stop for three days to keep to our schedule and hit the target. But the generosity of people along the way was really humbling."

The members of Salvation Army's Birmingham Citadel Band graced the likes of Wembley and The Oval with their trumpets, trombone, horn and tuba.

Match of the Day, Grandstand and Test Match Special tunes were included in their repertoire, along with hymns and anthems linked with particular cities, clubs or sports.

They also visited Molineux, Lichfield Rugby Club, Edgbaston, Bristol City FC, York racecourse and went as far as Truro, Norwich, Portsmouth and



The band outside Molineux



Striking up a tune at Edgbaston



The quintet at Aston Villa's Villa Park ground

Carlisle during their travels.

"We have loads of memories but one of the highlights was arriving at Brighton Football Club in the dark at 3am and being welcomed by a security guard, who turned on the floodlights and gave us a tour of the ground," added Mr Lamplough.

"We then performed a concert on

the pitch just for him, which included a rendition of 'Sussex by the Sea'. It was surreal. We feel very fortunate that we stumbled across a fundraising idea that captured the imagination and generosity of the public."

Five years ago the band visited all 92 football league grounds and raised £8,000. Donations can still be made

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Trust apologise as hundreds of ops cancelled on the day

HUNDREDS of patients have had operations cancelled at the last minute as Sandwell and West Birmingham NHS Trust fails to meet national targets.

National guidelines say no more than 0.8 per cent of operations should be cancelled at the last minute due to 'non-clinical' reasons.

But in July the trust's figure was 1.2 per cent or 51 operations. The worst month was February, which saw 67 operations cancelled on the day, amounting to 1.7 per cent. Between August 2016 and July there 640 cancelled operations. Health bosses said 50 per cent of the cancellations were avoidable, but vowed to make improvements.

Roadworks due to end this month

WORK to improve road safety and reduce congestion at an accident black-spot in the Black Country is set to be completed by the end of this month.

The overhaul to the junction of Doulton Road and Dudley Road, in Rowley Regis, began in July.

The project was started after Sandwell Council bosses said the work to see traffic lights installed was needed after a review of accidents on that stretch of highway. A spokesperson confirmed it would be complete by September 30.

Over the summer motorists have experienced long delays during work on the busy route.

Meanwhile, Dudley Council has revealed work on the Dudley Road and Coombs Road junction in Halesowen will not restart until next year.

The worst affected department was ophthalmology, with 50 per cent of operations cancelled in the last five months due to non-clinical reasons.

A hospital report said: "Hospital cancellations on the day of surgery result in delayed access to treatment and impact negatively on patients who have both emotionally prepared themselves for surgery and have re-organised their lives to support it."

Deteriorated

"Review of the last five months performance in 2017 compared with the previous year demonstrates that performance has markedly deteriorated, although there has been a 47 per cent improvement between April and August 2017."

Ops were cancelled for reasons including communication errors, equipment not available, notes missing or not fully checked, no theatre time or no anaesthetist. Rachel Barlow, chief operating officer, said the trust aims to meet national standards by the end of the year. "We apologise to patients whose operations have been rescheduled. We are working hard to minimise cancellations and have already seen improvements."

Old Black Sabbath tour bus for sale



Old metal – the vehicle, said to be the Black Sabbath tour bus, that has gone up for sale in Scotland

FORGET Crazy Train, Black Sabbath fans could get their hands on the band's former 'crazy bus'.

A vehicle believed to be the heavy metal legends' old tour bus has gone on sale.

The battered old vehicle – that looks like it has been Into The Void and back

– is being advertised on Gumtree and the advert claims it once belonged to the iconic Brummie rockers.

The 1984 8.2litre diesel bus has been put on sale online by a seller called Bob in Gorebridge, Midlothian, Scotland. He is open to offers or says he is willing to swap the vehicle for

'something interesting... car, van or caravan'.

The ad says the bus was once used as a tour vehicle and later to provide cheap accommodation in Edinburgh.

Black Sabbath played for the last time at Birmingham's Genting Arena in February.

Driver waved knife out of car window

A 'HARDWORKING' Romanian immigrant who pulled a blade out from his lunch box before waving it through his car window has been given a suspended sentence.

Knife-wielding Claudiu Popaz grabbed the three-inch blade, used to cut his salami, during the 'road rage' row, Wolverhampton Crown Court heard. The 22-year-old father, of Kenilworth Court, Dudley, who came to the UK from Greece four years ago, claimed he brandished the knife after being threatened by another driver in Quinton.

Sentencing, Recorder Julian Taylor said: "I don't want to send a man to immediate custody who is in a job, is remorseful and has pleaded guilty at the first opportunity. I hope this is an isolated incident. You were in possession of a knife and you shouldn't have been. If you need to cut up your lunch, do it before you leave the house."

Plain-clothed police officers in an unmarked vehicle were observing Popaz after suspecting he was driving while using a mobile in Hagley Road West. Another motorist overtook Popaz's Ford Focus and when the two cars pulled up alongside each other at traffic lights officers spotted the defendant wave the blade through the window.

Popaz was handed an eight-month sentence, suspended for 18 months, ordered to carry out 150 hours unpaid work and pay £360 costs.

Job saved at firm

ALL 40 jobs have been saved at a Kingswinford catering equipment firm that has been bought out of administration.

Staffordshire-based Unitech Industries has bought Francis Catering Equipment and its Design Catering Equipment business in a rescue deal with administrators from FRP Advisory.

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Firm aim to clean up on driverless sweeper

A NEW driverless electric road sweeper is being developed by a firm in Dudley.

Westfield Autonomous Vehicles, part of Westfield Technology Group – including Westfield Sportscars – at Gibbons Industrial Park, Kingswinford, is behind the project.

The firm is working with Johnston Sweepers and Fusion Processing to make the UK's first fully autonomous pure electric road sweeper.

Meanwhile, it is also working to create a twin drive all-electric jet ski with Potenza Technology.

Both projects are being funded by the Niche Vehicle Network.

Westfield chief executive Julian Turner said: "A fully autonomous road sweeper could revolutionise town centre sweeping, improving the environment for residents and businesses. This is an exciting opportunity to develop the technology for use at airports and on roadwork sites."

On the jet ski, the two businesses aim to improve hydrodynamic efficiency and produce a vehicle that has enhanced safety, lower emissions and decreased noise pollution.

Electric vehicle pioneer Westfield LAO recently agreed a £30 million supply deal with South Korea for autonomous electric pod vehicles.

Fundraising after mother's diagnosis



Heidi Fellows, Louise Overton, Ayden Overton and Kerry Round will be fundraising for Alzheimer's Society

A WOMAN has told of her devastation after her mother was diagnosed with dementia – aged just 50.

Dudley resident Louise Overton, aged 32, was only 19 when she first noticed changes in her mother's behaviour years before any medical diagnosis. Jane Wilcox was 44 when she was started to develop dementia, which would eventually take not only her memory but also her voice.

Mrs Overton said: "We noticed things weren't quite right, mum was finally diagnosed when she was 50 and since then we have watched the painful process of deterioration."

Both mother and daughter had worked at Concord Market in Sedgley.

Now on a mission to raise funds and awareness of the condition, Mrs Overton will take part in the Alzheimer's Society's Memory Walk with other family members on Saturday in Sutton Park, Birmingham. She said: "My mum is now on complete bed rest, so I'm doing this walk for her, for other women who will need their mum and for the children who will need their nan."

Mersey nurses bid

A BLACK Country hospital team has visited Liverpool in a bid to recruit more nurses.

The RCN nursing recruitment event took place on Merseyside last week.

Sandwell and West Birmingham Hospitals NHS Trust, which runs City, Sandwell and Rowley Regis Hospitals, as well as Leasowes Intermediate Care Centre, was on the lookout to recruit qualified nurses.

Paul Hooton, deputy chief nurse said: "We know that the Black Country is a great place for all to live and work. By going to Liverpool this year, we hope to attract more talent to come to this wonderful place and help us improve our patient experience even more."

Former ammunition store cave under zoo has tourist potential

TOURISM bosses are investigating whether to open an attraction at caves underneath Dudley Zoo.

Stores Cavern, created by limestone quarrying from 1750s to 1850s, was visited by Dudley Council chief executive Sarah Norman this week.

The caves feature Silurian limestone, which provide a unique look at

the prehistoric seabed below Dudley's Castle Hill. It is rich with 400 million-year-old fossils and was also used as underground storage for ammunition during the war years.

Zoo director Derek Grove said opening the caves to the public could form part of plans for an education centre next to the car park at the attraction.

Existing maintenance buildings would be pulled down and replaced

by a new facility next to one of three openings to the cavern. He said: "We are at the stage where we are exploring what we can do with the caves. The tunnel would require a lot of restoration and we would have to do a study the bats inside. But we hope one day it could be opened up for people to explore"

The tunnel is 100 metres long and the cavern is 180m wide and 20m tall.

It's a girl! Lemur's gender discovered

A change in fur colour has revealed a rare black lemur baby – the first to be born at Dudley Zoo – is a girl.

She was born to first-time mother Barbara and father Bryan on May 15 and has been named Kimmy by keepers.

Despite the species name, only the males are black in colour, as the females turn brown a few weeks after birth. She is the zoo's first baby black lemur in more than a decade.

Dudley Zoo is particularly delighted as it plays a key role in the conservation battle of its vulnerable species, and is the European Endangered Species Programme studbook holder for the entire European captive population.

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Great when yow tek me bak 'ome



Cum On Feel the Noize – Noddy Holder and Dave Hill in action with Slade during the glory days of the 1970s

'PEOPLE mek places. Buildings are there but it's people who mek places. And people mek the Black Country, them the salt of the earth. I've been everywhere in the world and there's nowhere as good as the Black Country.'

Slade were a product of the Black Country and Noddy Holder is proud of his roots and woe betide anyone who says a bad word about it.

"I speak to people who've never been to the Black Country or the Midlands. They all slag it off. But they've never bin. How the f*** do they know what they're talking about?" says the Freeman of Walsall.

Noddy is reminiscing about the early days as this year marks the 45th anniversary of the band's breakthrough album *Slade Alive* which went straight to number two in the charts. It was their first record to enter the UK top 40 and stayed there for more than a year. It has been re-released to coincide with the anniversary.

He reflects: "I've probably not lived there for 40 years, thinking of the time I left Walsall. It's certainly 30-odd years. But when I drive into the Midlands, if I go and buy a paper in a shop, the accent of the customers makes me feel at home."

He gets recognised everywhere he goes. People in the shops say

ANDY RICHARDSON catches up with rock hero NODDY HOLDER as *Slade Alive!* is re-released

'alright Noddy, ow yow doin'? It's like they know you and them yur mate. They'll tell me to get me hair cut. They still have that sense of humour. So you feel like you're home.

"I tell yow summat. People who live in the Black Country doe appreciate what they got. I know the yooof don't because occasionally I give talks to colleges and schools. They don't appreciate the history of the area.

Chips

"It don't matter where you go in the world, there's few places you get the warmth that you get from the Black Country. I get the same vibe from the southern states in America. There's the atmosphere, the people and the music – it's the same as the Midlands.

"And I tell you summat else. You won't get better fish and chips, or curry, no matter where you go. The pubs are great and the characters you meet in them are the best in the world."

He remembers recording *Slade Alive* as though it were only yesterday. The band had been on *Top Of The Pops* that night. It cost just £600 to make and recorded over three nights at London's Command Theatre Studio in front of an audience, the idea of manager, Chas Chandler, who also produced.

Noddy says: "Chas wanted something to keep the fans interested so we went along with it. He booked us into a studio on Piccadilly in London for three nights on a Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. On the Wednesday we were called into *Top Of The Pops* with *Coz I Luv You*, which was our next single. It was selling like hot cakes.

"So we went straight from TOTP to Command Studios after the recording. We'd done TOTP and had a few drinks. We were buzzing. We walked on stage and the atmosphere was brilliant.

"In the end, we scrapped the recordings from Tuesday and Thursday and just used the gig from Wednesday because it was so good. We captured the raucousness of our live shows on that record. We'd been trying to capture it on record before because that's what *Slade* was all about.

"It was all about that spontaneous, raucous guitars – we were a real rock'n'roll band.

"Before then, every time we'd been in the studio the engineers would be telling us to turn the amps down because we were always too loud for everyone. But we played at full pike on *Slade Alive*."

The record was recorded in late November 1971 and came out in early spring 1972. It changed the game and earned them the acclaim. And yet, remarkably, they



An early shot of Slade taken when they used to travel down to London



Glam bam – Nod and co conquered the charts on both sides of the Atlantic

had yet to enjoy the fruits of their success.

Noddy says: "At the time of recording we were all still living with our parents, although we were hardly ever there because we were touring that much or recording in London.

"But the Midlands was still our base because we couldn't afford to move anywhere. We hadn't started making any money at that point."

Slade Alive opened the floodgates and they were sent to Europe to tour. In Australia, the record went to number one and stayed there for six months. "It was only knocked off the week we arrived and re-released our next album, *Slayed?* We had the number one and number two album and three singles in the chart. It was the same in Canada.

But we were never an overnight success. That was the culmination of five years of hard slog."

Slade experienced something akin to Beatlemania during the early 1970s. From 1971 to 1973 they enjoyed six number one hits, two number two hits and a single, *Look Wot You Dun*, that made it to number four. They breached the USA chart and enjoyed success across Europe.

Noddy enjoyed his time with the band – "what we had was unique" – though he declined an opportunity to rejoin.

"I'd had 25 years with the same people every day. I wanted something different."

● For the full interview see Weekend in the Express & Star on Saturday

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Factory's famous mosaic to be saved

A LANDMARK former ceramics factory in the Black Country could be given a new lease of life after standing derelict for more than 10 years.

The Roman Mosaic site, on Bloomfield Road, Tipton, has been targeted by arsonists and fly-tippers.

It was put on the market for more than half a million pounds last year and a sale has now been confirmed.

The factory, which is recognised by its notable chimney with 'Roman' written on it, also has a unique tile mosaic of a Black Country canal scene on the corner of the premises.

Chair of Tipton Civic Society, Keith Hodgkins, said: "I have heard that the site has been bought and could be turned into offices, but no plans have been put forward yet."

"It has looked a mess for some time now so to see something done with it will be great."

Initiative

"There is also an initiative by Tipton Community Association to get the mosaics preserved. They have been in contact with the new owners and they have kindly said that they can have it. The plan is to re-erect it at the Brook Street Community Centre."

Former West Bromwich MP and House of Commons speaker, Baroness Betty Boothroyd, unveiled the canal mosaic artwork 20 years ago.

Meanwhile, an eyesore former steel-works site in Tipton has been put up for sale for more than £1 million. The Corus warehouse, which closed down in 2003, is described as ideal for housing development by Bearwood-based property specialists Royal Estates.



The canal mosaic artwork at the Roman Mosaic site in Tipton

Walk to help dementia charity

PEOPLE are being urged to lace up their running shoes and get ready to raise funds for charity.

A memory walk will take place at Himley next month for the Alzheimer's Society. The Mayor of Dudley, Councillor Dave Tyler, is on the look-out for residents to take part in the fundraiser at Himley Hall and Park on Sunday, October 8.

The charity is one of three that the mayor is raising money for during his year in office. Anyone can take part,

with adults welcome to bring children and dogs with them. Walkers can choose either a two kilometre or six kilometre route, both from 11am.

Councillor Tyler, said: "It should be a great day out, a lovely walk around a beautiful park for a very worthy cause"

Children under 16 will need to take part with an adult.

Register at www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/mayor-of-dudleys-memory-walk-tickets-36657796456

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Duncan's three England shirts stay in home town

THIS is what remains of footballing great Duncan Edwards' memorabilia collection in the Black Country after the bulk of it was relocated to Old Trafford.

Dozens of items from Edwards' career have been transported to the home of his former team Manchester United after the club bought the collection from his family earlier this year.

It means that just four of Dudley-born Edwards football shirts – including three England shirts and a Brazil shirt – and four international caps will remain on display at the town's archives and local history centre on Tipton Road.

It follows months of talks between Dudley Council and the club, which resulted in a deal being agreed to ensure a small number of items remain in the town with other parts of the collection due to be loaned to the centre throughout the year.

Bosses at the authority have expressed relief that part of the collection will stay in Dudley following concerns that the entire collection would be sent to Manchester.

Legacy

However, the sale has been described as 'a tragedy' by a borough councillor Paul Brothwood, who says youngsters across the region will be deprived of seeing a full chronicle of the legacy of Dudley's greatest footballer.

"Duncan Edwards was a truly inspirational figure, not just in terms of his brilliance with a football but also as a great man," said Mr Brothwood, Dudley Council's UKIP leader. "It is a real tragedy that the majority of the



Councillor Ian Kettle with Duncan Edwards' shirts on show at the archives centre

collection appears to have headed out of the town.

"But at least a small number of items will remain so people can still see his legacy in the town of his birth. Obviously there is nothing the council can do to influence a private deal between the Edwards family and Manchester United."

The full collection includes shirts, caps, medals, match programmes and photographs. It had been on loan to Dudley Council for years and was exhibited at the Dudley Museum and Art Gallery in the town centre until its closure.

Councillor Ian Kettle, the council's cabinet member for regeneration, said the authority had negotiated

with United to secure the loan of several items, which can be 'refreshed' throughout the year.

The items will be displayed at the archive centre's new Dudley Heroes gallery, which will also feature Nether-ton leaper Joe Darby's belts and Halesowen wheelchair tennis ace Jordanne Whitley's Wimbledon kit. The gallery will be officially opened by Ms Whitley when the museum opens officially on September 30.

Mr Kettle added: "This collection is extremely important to this borough. It tells the story of not only a local footballing hero, but one of the greatest players this country has ever produced. We will continue celebrating his name for generations to come."



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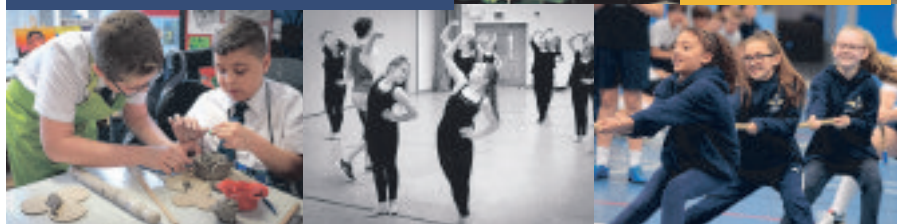
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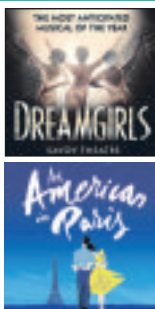
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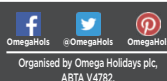
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It's silent but sinister – burglar's best trick

"IT is quick, easy and quiet," – It sounds like an advert promoting the local library but actually the truth is far more sinister.

Unfortunately that is West Midlands Police's description for 'lock snapping' which has emerged as a prominent form of burglary in the Black Country this year.

Armed with just a pair of pliers and a screwdriver intruders can now force their way into people's homes in less than a minute.

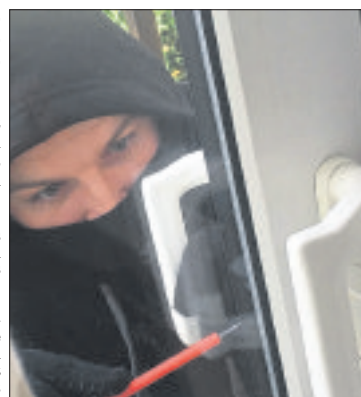
And what has the force 'worried' is that unlike other crude methods of entry, this does not involve smashing glass or breaking down doors. It can be carried out almost completely silently. As a result thieves are targeting more homes at night – while people are still in bed.

Detective Sergeant Leighton Shingles, part of the force's High Harm team, said: "It has definitely become a method of entry we are seeing more often. Ever since January we are noticing it regularly. The worrying thing is that they are being committed while people are in the house. It takes a matter of minutes."

So what exactly is lock snapping? The first bit of bad news is that the ideal targets are Euro profile cylinder locks, which are fitted to several million uPVC doors throughout the country.

It works by removing the plastic covering and gripping the protruding lock mechanism – where you put the key – with some sort of tool.

A set of pliers will do but career burglars may opt for an aptly named 'snapper bar' which can be picked up from most locksmith merchants for



No glass smashing or breaking down doors

around £50 or less. At the risk of this becoming a 'how to' guide, aspiring burglars will have to figure the final part out themselves. However, it would seem scores of desperate criminals have already cottoned on in the Black Country with West Midlands Police now declaring lock snapping is the 'method of choice' for forcing entry into homes.

Warnings

The force has issued multiple warnings to residents this year, particularly via its fledgling WMNow alert service, that this is the way homes are being broken in to in 2017.

In March houses on Hodges Drive and Darby's Hill Road in Tividale were targeted and properties in Brickhouse Lane and Woolpack Close in the West Bromwich area were also raided.

More recently Milking Bank in Dudley and parts of Halesowen have seen similar incidents.

Walsall residents have been hit by several 'lock snap' break-ins in the last two months with houses in Chestnut Close in Streetly, The Berkshire in Turnberry, and Tetley Avenue, just north of Walsall Arboretum, all proving vulnerable. On the back of the latter incident, Kevin Pitt, police, engagement and consultation officer in Walsall, said: "Lock snapping is becoming burglars' entry method of choice as it is quick, easy and quiet."

Laptops, jewellery and cash have been the obvious targets. But car keys have become the ultimate prize with the rear patio doors to a home now seen as a gateway to driving off in a £30,000-plus high performance vehicle.

But there are counter measures have since been developed. There are several 'anti-snap' locks on the market which can be picked up for less than £20. A cheaper option for patio doors comes in the form of a Patlock, which fits around the door handles. And even cheaper still are 'sash jammers' which prevent windows and doors from opening.

They are available for less than £10 each and recommended by police.

DS Shingles added: "We would urge people to check things like the security of their side gates, or if they have security lights and CCTV make sure they are working."

West Midlands Police has had to deal with a minimum of 2,000 burglaries a month across the region since last September. Home security is available at www.securebydesign.com

Advertisement

Wedding smile back in a day

A cost-effective solution, the All-on-4™ therapy can offer new teeth in a single day. Encouraged by her granddaughter, a dental professional, super-nan Janet Harris opted for this lifestyle investment that has helped recapture her Big Day smile

WHEN Janet Harris's smile was compromised she knew exactly what she wanted from her dentist. "Definitely no dentures," the super-nan says emphatically. "My mother had more sets of false teeth than I have fingers, she could never master them and I'm sure I couldn't either," she adds.

"I wanted something just like my own teeth – there's nothing like them – and I didn't want brilliant white teeth either... they look ridiculous on someone my age," says the spritely 70-something-year-old financial controller, who works full-time for her family profile cutting business.

Memorable moment

"No," she affirms, taking a black and white wedding album picture from her handbag. "I wanted teeth like those in this photograph when I was 19, natural and not too white." Snapped on her Big Day with husband Colin and brother Brian at the then newly-built Catholic church in Whiteheath, Janet was determined to recover the smile of that memorable moment.

She admits to being lucky with her native teeth and the dentistry she has received since she was child.

But after surviving an astonishing 30 years, three teeth on an upper left bridge fell out. "I also had five teeth at the front on a bridge and I knew it was time to get some new dental work done," she says.

With care, it's possible for bridges to last up to eight years.

"I'd lost a few back teeth when I was a girl. Mum, who was terrified of the dentist, didn't believe in fillings and I was dispatched with my father to have teeth out," she adds.

Those memories of having gas extractions, the predictable sickness afterwards and "the horrible, black rubber mask" are vivid, but Janet still braved regular dental appointments throughout her life. She recalls how her friend attended a questions and an-

swers open day at North Street Dental and Implant Clinic after experiencing problems with a prosthetic prescription and recommended her to chat with the friendly staff.

'No pain'

After initial consultations with implant surgeon Owain Rees BDS DGDIP (UK) Dip Imp Dent (UCL) and Steven Burchell Dip CDT RCS(Eng), Janet continued to research her clinical options.

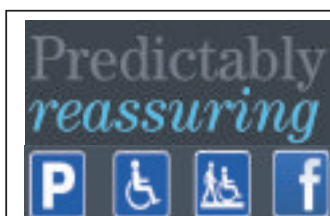
"I started coming [to the surgery] every

other week to be clear in my own mind about the decision on the treatment. Every-one was patient with me and very helpful answering my questions," says Janet.

Deciding on an All-on-4 option, a system where her full upper arch of teeth is secured on four strategically sited implants, the procedure was completed within a single day.

"I came in on a Wednesday at 9am and by 3.30pm I had my teeth in," she says.

With conscious sedation during the procedure, Janet was able to leave the surgery by



□ All-on-4 is a cost-effective implant solution that aims to use only four implants for a complete arch of teeth.

□ Following preparatory consultations and possible other dental treatment, the therapy can usually be carried out in a day.

□ There is no waiting for healing time between surgery and teeth replacement unlike conventional implant placement.

□ The use of angled implants will sometimes enable treatment of those patients who have previously not been suitable implant candidates.

Recovering her wedding day smile with the All-on-4 therapy is Jannet Harris. Inset: The Big Day image from which Steven Burchell had to work



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And now for something completely different. . .

ANTIQUES AND COLLECTIBLES

with John Ridgway of Perry & Phillips



IT'S always nice to buy vintage pieces that match, either in style or colour or both, but sometimes it's good to deviate from your usual design path and go for something completely different.

I'm talking about that one unusual item that can somehow make a room come alive – and it might be anything from a Victorian doll to a Victorian pram!

Old dolls and teddy bears always look good displayed around a home (I know someone who moves her vintage teddy around the house at regular intervals, always attired in something suitable for the season) and a small collection of old cars is again a moveable feast, looking nice in a home office or sitting room.

Don't be afraid to go for something you like that won't necessarily seem 'right' – a 1950s china parrot might look a bit strange on his own but in the right setting he will be great.

Old film and theatre posters can add an original touch in a modern setting – they don't have to be contemporary – and musical instruments like guitars and violins always 'fit in', even if you don't actually play!



Pieces that you wouldn't perhaps usually buy at auction for your home because they aren't officially collectable at present are worth considering.

A majolica plate, for example, a china figure of Georgian lady, an old Bakelite radio – they might not be right up there with the saleroom stars just now but could look really good in the right setting.

And why not include an item of furniture that is completely different in age and style to its companions, such as a 1970s 'Peacock' wicker chair (very popular at the moment) or 1940s telephone table?

Or a Victorian pram? Yes, we do sell them . . .

- Perry and Phillips hold valuation days, for sale items only, every Wednesday from 10am until 4pm.
- The next Perry and Phillips sale of antiques and collectables takes place at the Mill Street saleroom in Low Town, Bridgnorth, on Tuesday, October 3. Viewing will be during the weekend and on Monday and also from 10am on auction day.
- New sale bidders are advised to attend the saleroom early on auction day to register and be allocated a bidding number.
- Perry and Phillips hold sales on the first Tuesday of every other month.

Wrap up and look fabulous as weather closes in



Padded jackets are on the way back

THE weather is getting a little colder, autumn is here and the seasonal temperatures are dropping. It is time to find a winter top coat to see us through the chillier months.

The shops are offering some delightful choices, something to suit every shape, size, age and wallet.

Coats are a less popular item to buy in recent years due to the slightly warmer weather and our over use of travelling even the shortest of journeys in a car.

We tend to choose a technical waterproof jacket with an inner liner for protection and warmth, worn for any occasion, smart or casual.

The difficulty is in choosing an overcoat that complements our complete wardrobe, it is an item that we will not generally buy several of to co-ordinate with everything we have, therefore the neutrals win every time, but consider a different colour, a statement piece, this season and enjoy the pleasure and comfort it will give you.

The catwalks have shown some stunning styles for us to choose from this coming winter.

STYLE FOCUS

with Janet Timmis



The designs are oversized "military" and "boyfriend" shapes, loose, straight and simplified, knee or full length with wide rever collars, statement sleeves and neat pocket detail. Textured woollens in plain colours varying from army green, pastel pink to pillar box red, small checks and large tartans, leopard prints and fake furs. See some of the choices on offer at HM.com, zara.com and net-a-porter.com

Double breasted, belted trench coats and single breasted high shine macs are the popular raincoat choices. These styles look amazing with matching fabric skirts or trousers and a simple jumper.

In contrast to these great top coats, the duvet coat and jacket is making a comeback. Often known as a "Puffa" jacket, as created by the brand of the same name, these quilted garments are cosy, warm and comfortable. Beautifully soft fillings from Thinsulate and

Clo-i that feel like the more expensive down paddings but provide heat without weight. The newest are oversized and a little quirky, in velvets, silky metallics and pastel shines with big asymmetric high collars and roomy sleeves, see the selection at Mango and Selfridges.

If you are however looking for a less formal look then buy the new look shorter shearling jackets, denim jacket design, flying jacket styling with biker jacket zip detail, great worn with jeans, a sleek fine knit polo neck jumper and new season boots.

Ensure full length coats are longer than your skirt, mid-calf and knee length styles looking great with the wider trouser styles of this season. Look fantastic while fending off the worsening weather.

Ditch the walking jacket, embrace the top coat. Choose style over practicality and look forward to the night's drawing in and the cooler temperatures.

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Certain foods can 'trigger' IBS



Taking steps to manage your stress levels is one way of helping avoid or reduce IBS symptoms

How taking time out could change your IBS symptoms



The good news is IBS can be managed

MINDFULNESS could change your relationship with IBS.

Experts often talk about the brain and gut being closely linked, but what does this actually mean in practical terms for people suffering with troublesome irritable bowel syndrome?

Well, one thing worth keeping in mind is that stress, along with certain foods and ingredients, is known to be a key 'trigger' for IBS (meaning it's one of the factors that can make symptoms flare up). This is why Senocalm has teamed up with mindfulness expert Emma Mills to launch their 'Gutfulness' campaign. The aim? To provide 'quick, unusual and practical advice for busy women', to help them alleviate stress and therefore better manage their IBS.

Here's what it's all about...

What is IBS?

IBS is a very common digestive condition, affecting around one in five Brits to varying degrees, with symptoms including diarrhoea, constipation, bloating and abdominal pain and cramps – and it can cause

By Abi Jackson

a lot of distress, wreaking havoc with your work and social life, energy levels and even self-esteem.

The good news is, IBS can be very well managed, and taking steps to manage your stress levels is one important way of helping avoid or reduce IBS symptoms and flare-ups.

"Stress can be detrimental to your mental and physical wellbeing, and for many IBS sufferers it can be a key trigger of their symptoms," says Emma. "Taking time out for a few minutes a day for meditation and mindfulness helps ease emotional tension, which can help to re-balance the digestive system."

Here are Emma's five top 'gutfulness' tips:

1. Belly Breathing: Take five minutes to focus on your breathing. Lying down, place both hands on your tummy, covering your belly button. When you breathe in, imagine there is a little balloon inside your

tummy. As it expands, lift your hands as you breathe in, lower as you breathe out.

2. Visualisation: Picture your digestive tract as a long, calm river that flows gently, passing through the throat and into the tummy. Feel the 'river' gently cooling the soft walls of your tummy, working to cleanse and heal your body.

3. Humming: Sit comfortably and on your next out breath, close your mouth and make a little humming sound. This can be very relaxing on the digestive system and restore a sense of harmony.

4. Focus in: Take three minutes to focus on a flower. Put all your attention on this; its petals, fragrance, shape etc. Notice how it feels to be engaged and ask yourself what starts to feel different.

5. Tapping: Gently tap using your knuckles around the rib cage, across the back of the ribs and around the hips, use 20 per cent of your effort while you say, 'I can trust my body, I can feel relaxed'.

For more information, and to watch Senocalm's 'Gutfulness' meditation video, visit www.senokot.co.uk/senocalm-ibs.

Simple steps homeowners can take now to protect their assets.

Head of April King Legal Paul King explains why some homeowners are doing **too little, too late** to protect their hard-earned assets.

Care Cost Fees

"A lot of people are still unaware that if they need care in later life, their assets will be means-tested by the Local Authority to help pay for these services."

"The Local Authority will look to use the assets of a person until they get down to a lower limit of £14,250, when the Local Authority will take over the fees."

"For instance, my own grandmother sadly passed away recently at the age of 92. My grandfather had died many years earlier and left everything to her."

"When she needed care in the last six years of her life, because my grandfather had left everything to her, the house and all the estate was counted in the Local Authority's means test."

"Our clients tell us, 'We've worked hard all our lives, why should the Local Authority get it all?'"

"Just as she died, she had gone down to that lower limit of £14,250 and that's all her children inherited."

"There are many myths about the steps people can take to protect their assets from being used like this."

"The main one is that a parent should simply sign their house over to the children now, so it won't be taken into consideration for means testing. That's just not true."

"Local Authorities will actually look to see if you've 'deliberately deprived' yourself of an asset by giving property away, going back over any period in time."

"Sometimes people think that if the gift is made seven years prior then the house is safe. This is not so as the seven-year rule only applies to Inheritance Tax and not Local Authority care."

"The solution is for couples to simply not leave everything to each other in the first place."

"What my grandfather could have done is leave his half of the house in trust to his children, stating that they couldn't have it while his wife, my grandmother, was still alive. We call these Property Trust Wills."

"If my grandfather had left his half of the house in trust to the children then when my grandmother subsequently received care in her later life she would only have been means tested on her own half of the house, but my grandfather's half would have been safe."

"Why should he have to contribute his half when he didn't receive any care?"

"The important factor is that couples need to act in advance. Once one party dies or loses mental capacity, through a stroke for example, then they are no longer in a position to do this legitimate and straightforward type of planning."

"It is therefore important for couples to act now even if they may not foresee care fees being an issue."

Paul goes on to explain that most clients he sees are surprised to learn remarriage usually cancels a Will and makes the spouse next in line to inherit, ahead of their own children! Protecting your half of the house in this way, he suggests, ensures that your children ultimately inherit when the survivor dies.

"Had my grandmother remarried after the death of my grandfather the whole estate could have passed sideways out of the family," says Paul.

Lasting Power of Attorney

Paul explains how people often get confused thinking that, because they have made a Will, their executors can also deal with assets if there is illness, stroke or some other form of incapacity while they are still alive.

"Everyone should actually have two documents – a Will that deals with their estate on death, and a Lasting Power of Attorney that deals with their estate during their lifetime," he says.

"There are two types of Lasting Power of Attorney – one deals with finance, the other deals with health and welfare."

"In many ways it's similar to a passport; a document that's registered now and one which can be physically handed to the attorneys should the need arise."

"It allows the attorneys, perhaps the children, to deal with the banks and pension companies etc should their parent become incapacitated, but also to deal with matters such as where the parent should be living and how they should receive care."

"Your attorneys, again perhaps your children, must legally act in your best interests at all times."

"You can choose a number of attorneys to act, either jointly or independently, and April King advises on the various options available."

"Couples are often surprised to discover that even joint bank accounts can be frozen until the bank sees sight of a Lasting Power of Attorney document."

"Having a Lasting Power of Attorney removes the burden on children should ill health happen further down the line."

"It helps a family deal with bank accounts and so on during a parent's lifetime and ceases on death."

"Crucially, you have to complete a Lasting Power of Attorney while you are still in good mental health."

"If someone becomes ill through say, a stroke or dementia, this option is lost and the family would have to apply for a Deputyship Order from the Court of Protection – a drawn out and expensive process."

"It is therefore a good idea for clients to plan ahead and remove any future burden from the family."

"Once again, all adults should be thinking of this, particularly when there are children or a business involved."

"It's not just something to think about when you get older, that's the challenge for us."

"People think, 'I'm not ill, why do I need to make a Power of Attorney?' But they're missing the point. This is a document that has to be done in advance."



Paul King, Head of April King Legal

"The Lasting Power of Attorney remains in place until you die unless you want to cancel it."

"Once it's registered, you don't have to worry if you then develop some debilitating illness. A burden has been removed from the family at an already difficult time."

Bloodline Trust Wills

The majority of April King's clients have already made standard 'Mirror Wills' with other firms before approaching the Firm. A Mirror Will is when a couple leave everything to each other on the first death, then to the children when the second partner dies. But modern family life means these type of Wills leave a lot to chance.

Explains Paul: "If I have a Mirror Will leaving everything to my wife and she remarries or goes into care after my death then either the new husband or the Local Authority are likely to inherit most, if not all, of my estate ahead of my children."

"Even if my children are named in my Mirror Will, it is by no means certain that they will inherit anything."

"Once again, this is because a remarriage would cancel the Will my wife had previously made with me and make the new husband next-of-kin."

"This often comes as a big shock to my clients who had perhaps thought that all was in order and that the family bloodline would one day inherit."

"The same is true for thinking that their children and/or grandchildren will one day benefit under a Mirror Will."

"If any of your children should die leaving everything to their husband or wife and that son-in-law or daughter-in-law should then remarry, then your grandchildren would be the ones to lose out under the line of inheritance."

"Worse still, someone else's grandchildren would be in line to receive the benefit of all your years of hard work."

"I've experienced this in my own family and I'm sure most people have had similar experiences or heard of someone who has."

"Bloodline Trust Wills give greater protection to your children."

"These type of Wills not only give your children complete control and access to the inheritance they receive from you, they also grant added protection from the twists and turns of modern family life."

"The wording in these Wills states that any money left over on their demise must pass to any children born of them – your grandchildren."

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April King has prepared a free information pack for readers of the Halesowen Chronicle which is available by calling

01384 886101

Lines open Mon-Fri 8am-7pm, Sat 10am-4pm, Sun 10am-2pm

You can also email info@aprilking.co.uk or visit www.aprilking.co.uk/infopack



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Transform your space with a touch of the tropics

FANCY a taste of the tropics at home? Walk around the new exotic garden at RHS Garden Wisley, the horticultural charity's flagship site, and you'll be transported to faraway places amid great, leafy banana plants, pint-sized pineapples, zingy yellow and orange cannas, lush-leaved ginger and wafting palms.

You might think that the British climate won't easily accommodate such exotics, but only 30% of the planting is not hardy, explains Wisley's curator Matthew Pottage.

"We wanted a good range of hardy palms, some of which were UK-grown. But some originate from Mexico, China and the Mediterranean.

"I also wanted some exotic-looking conifers which didn't say 'typical conifers', so we have some long leaf pines, the Mexican pines, Pinus montezumae, with the big needles and other large leaf evergreens like eriobotrya."

Some of the less hardy specimens such as cannas, dahlias and abutilons will be mulched over to protect them in the winter.

But how can you create an exotic space in your own garden?

Find a sunny, sheltered spot

Tropical-looking plants such as cannas and palms often thrive when they are baked and if you have sandy soil, they are less likely to become waterlogged in winter. Palms love the heat - put them up against a south-facing or west-facing wall, where you have hard landscaping, which will help hold heat. Make sure your soil is free-draining because exotics don't like to be waterlogged. Feed palms regularly.

Create an evergreen hardy backbone

Use unusual conifers placed behind flower power and herbaceous layers comprising cannas, ginger and other colourful plants. If you leave them in the ground, you will need to cut them right back and then mulch over them.

Take inspiration from hardy things like the eriobotryas and variegated fatsias. But if you grow banana plants they will need wrapping. And save up for the biggest palm you can afford. The more mature the palm is, the harder it will be.



Young seedlings may have a hard time getting through the first few winters.

Make the most of dahlias

The exotic garden incorporates a host of red, yellow and deep orange dahlias, including the striking red D. 'Edwin's Sunset' and the deep orange 'Bishop of Oxford' and the deep red 'Karma Choc'.

Consider unsung heroes

"The unsung heroes include gingers, which will be OK in a bit of shade or in full sun and they flower too. They are a lot tougher than people think and are quite underused plants," Matthew explains. "They typically flower later in the season. They have this exotic foliage through summer and flowers can go right through to the autumn depending on how the summer's been. The frost will take them back and they need to be mulched over in the winter."

"We also want to expand the eucomis collection, have more echinaceas and zantedeschias, which have survived over winter in other parts of the garden."

Mix in things you might see in other plantings, such as persicaria. Hardy hibiscus can sit easily with arundo and abutilons. Deep red hardy Lobelia tupa and 'Queen Victoria', also have an exotic look. Bromeliads, which are related to pineapples, are also hardy. Eucomis make great bed edges.

Look after non-hardy exotics

Pineapples will need to come in, says Emma Allen, Wisley's garden manager. "Overwinter them and take them out again next year."

"The idea is to make the area much more diverse, with plants which look exotic, but are much more hardy, such as Echinacea 'Hot papaya', which has a funky, hot-looking flower. We also have dark orange Rudbeckia 'Summerina Orange', which have an exotic look but will survive."

Some exotic-looking plants will grow in shade Broad-leaved fatsias, huge-flowered magnolias and ferns with wispy fronds can be placed to create an exotic look, mixed with colour from zantedeschia and hardy begonias with huge veined deep pink leaves.



Dahlias produce beautiful blooms and have interesting foliage too

Huge variety of species to see in diverse climate

ROSS UNDERWOOD

Head Gardener at Hodnet Hall



AUGUST is holiday time and it seems that everybody has been travelling.

I was no exception having planned a getaway to North Carolina on the eastern coast of the USA.

The state is situated along the Appalachian mountains which run like a spine down the eastern seaboard of the country from Maine down to Georgia. Anybody familiar with the work of Bill Bryson will have read his hilarious account of hiking the Appalachian Trail.

North America has a huge range of conditions from arctic to subtropical and climate is the main factor covering their distribution.

Altitude and land mass are also important as the same trees that can be found growing high in the Appalachians can grow near sea level in Canada whilst the Great Lakes create a warmer climate than if the area were all land.

Similarly atmosphere also affects habitat, whilst some trees can tolerate extreme aridity others require more rainfall or humidity.

North Carolina is extremely fortunate in having over six hundred species of native trees, shrubs and vines as well as countless herbaceous species which thrive in the diverse climate from mountains to piedmont to coast.

Forests

The large forests are mixed with coniferous and deciduous species.

When I was there this year I was immediately impressed with the large numbers of walnuts.

The most common species was the black walnut (Juglans nigra). The leaves one to two foot long divided into leaflets which are smooth above and hairy below. The large fruits were two uncles in diameter green on the outside, with a yellowish husk that stained hands and fingers like tobacco. The trees were between 60 and 100 feet high and grew plentifully.

Many of the trees I saw were home to tent caterpillars. What at first I took to be spider webs was the home of these caterpillars, six species of which occur in North America. They are a social caterpillar building nests from silk which hang in the branches of trees. They are often considered a pest because they can defoliate an entire tree. Though I am no expert they looked like Malacosoma americanum as well as something from a horror film!

Another recognisable species which abounded in impressive stands was that well loved denizen of gardens and parks the tulip tree (Liriodendron tulipifera).

Flowers will be worth the wait as autumn takes hold

GOING strong into autumn, these hungry plants will still need regular feeding and watering. While everything else in the garden is fading, the blousy blooms of dahlias are still going strong.

But how do you grow them in pots and what are the best varieties to try?

You can now buy much more compact plants, thanks to advanced breeding techniques.

These will provide you with bushy plants with interesting foliage and flowers that hold themselves above the leaves. The dark-leaved cultivars are a feature in themselves.

Planting up

Plant tubers in John Innes No.3 loam-based compost and insert slow-release fertiliser tablets at planting time to keep the plant well fed. Use pots at least 30cm in diameter to give the tuber plenty of room to grow. As the shoots reach 10-12cm, pinch out the tops to boost bushy growth. Remember that dahlias are really hungry

plants, so will need regular feeding and watering; if they get too dry, they are susceptible to powdery mildew.

Once in flower, deadhead regularly, which will keep them going and encourage them to produce more flowers.

It rather depends on the size of your pot, but if you want a dwarf form, D. 'Roxy' is a good bet as it has bushy deep burgundy foliage and vibrant deep pink blooms.

Other small varieties that pack a punch include the deep orange 'Bishop of Oxford', with its dark foliage.

Anemone-flowered dahlias look elegant in pots. Try 'Mystic Illusion', which has rich dark foliage and striking yellow flowers that aren't too tall and don't need staking.

If you have a large pot, appreciate huge, showy blooms and are prepared to stake them, try the pink 'Sir Alf Ramsey'.

You may get only one flower per month but when you do, it will have been worth the wait.



North America has a huge range of conditions from arctic to subtropical, housing hundreds of different trees and shrubs



Some of the rich flora of the Appalachians on Ross' visit this summer

Growing as they did in close proximity to other trees they had not developed the large rounded crowns that you see in our gardens and parks. Nevertheless they were impressive at 80-100 feet tall though they can reach 150 feet. Numerous seedlings sprouted up wherever you went waiting for an older tree to fall so they can shoot up.

Many of the most impressive of North Carolina's native trees are chronicled by

the Archangel Tree Archive which is worth looking at.

As in many deciduous forests spring is one of the most colourful seasons and the large areas covered by Rhododendron catawbiense hinted at what must be a spectacular sight in spring when the purple flowers emerged. They formed dense thickets with large glossy leaves that were impressive even out of flower.



Walnuts are plentiful and full of fruit at this time of year

Beneath the shrub layer many other plants abounded in the moist humus rich medium decomposing on the forest floor. I was struck by the preponderance of trillium though alas too late for flowers! I could also see Paris plants made obvious by the whorl of leaves clasping the stem. Some were beginning to ripen their fruit capsules.

All in all it was a fantastic visit to one of the most bio diverse areas of the world.

Maya award inspired
by Diana's legacy



Ambassador for The Children's Society and Sandwell College student Maya with Princes Harry and William

AN engineering student from Sandwell College, who only arrived in the UK from Syria two years ago, has won a national award inspired by the late Princess Diana.

Maya Ghazal was chosen from thousands of young people to win an inaugural Diana Legacy Award. It was presented to her at St James' Palace by Princes William and Harry.

Eighteen-year-old Maya was inspired to help refugees like herself by sharing her story as an inspirational volunteer speaker and ambassador for The Children's Society.

Two years ago she arrived in the UK from Syria, friendless, lonely and homesick, speaking no English, and just aiming to start a new life with her family. Now, having been supported to settle in the UK by The Children's Society, she speaks in churches around the country – and in the media.

Maya will soon be off to Brunel University London as a result of her academic success at Sandwell College.

Politician on register for sex offenders

A DISGRACED former councillor who took hundreds of indecent images of boys to use in adverts has been spared jail.

Derrick Hemingsley, who was a representative for Wordsley on Dudley Council, took topless photographs of two boys aged under 14. They were used in adverts and websites to promote his car cleaning products business, Pride and Joy, where they attracted 'inappropriate remarks'.

By Robert Cox

A court heard last week that Hemingsley paid one of the boys up to £500 for taking part in the photo shoots.

Police recovered 469 'category C' images and 17 videos of the same classification from the 57-year-olds laptop. Category C is the lowest level of child pornography.

Hemingsley, of Penzer Street, Kingswinford, pleaded guilty to two counts of taking indecent photographs of children. His pleas were on the basis he had not considered the images to be indecent when he took them, which was accepted by Judge Amjad Nawaz at Wolverhampton Crown Court.

He sentenced Hemingsley

to 10 months in jail, suspended for two years. He must also complete a rehabilitation programme, pay £500 costs and will be on the Sex Offenders Register for 10 years.

The court heard the defendant had been a magistrate, school governor, a church-goer and a prospective parliamentary candidate. Judge Nawaz, said: "Yours is a spectacular fall from grace."

Defending, Mr Simon Hunka, said his client's business interests had been badly affected by his conviction.

After the hearing, Hemingsley, said: "This has been a devastating time for not only me but for my family."

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VINCENT & FLAVIA: IT TAKES TWO TO TANGO

PAGE 2

COMMERCIAL FEATURE

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fabulous Indian craftwork, with Indian dance displays that range from very old style to modern, including the Eagle Dance, the spectacular Hoop Dance and many others.

There will be a variety of Steam Traction Engines, as well as Showmans Engines, Agricultural Engines, Steam Rollers and a selection of miniature Steam Engines and Vehicles.

Exhibits also include - over a 100 Vintage, and Classic Cars, along with Commercial Vehicles, Land Rovers, Motorbikes and Cycles, Tractors, Military Vehicles, Various Model Displays & Collections.

There will also be a variety of Organs from hand turned to fairground.

There will be arena events throughout Saturday & Sunday with various vehicle parades and displays including the Ferret World Road Show presented by the 'Blackcountry Man' with an informative and amusing history of ferrets, and audience participation with lots of children racing against the ferrets and each other in special racing tubes.

The Fun Dog Show organised by Birch Hill Dog Rescue have a variety of classes on both Saturday and Sunday - starting

approximately 2.00pm. Entry £1.00 per dog per class

There will be Service on Sunday at 11:00 Situated by Brian Well's 1895 Gavioli Fair Organ

In addition, there will be Market Stalls, Fair, Beer Tent, Refreshments and Much More.

Dr. Busker will be performing in the Beer Tent on Saturday Evening 8 until Late.

For more information please contact: - Keith Shakespeare, Rally Organiser
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It's hard work but we were obsessed

Strictly Come Dancing made them household names. But Vincent and Flavia have outlasted the BBC's number one family show by hitting the road for a series of UK tours.

They are back on the road with a new production, Tango Moderno, and will headline Birmingham's New Alexandra Theatre from Tuesday until September 23 – with extra matinees on Wednesday and the Saturday.

Tango Moderno is the irresistible new stage spectacular from tango superstars Vincent Simone and Flavia Cacace.

Dance partners for over two decades, world champions, Strictly favourites and West End stage stars Vincent and Flavia plan to fuse Ballroom, Latin, and Argentine tango to give fans a performance that smoulders with desire.

Their latest show follows the successes of Midnight Tango, hailed as 'a triumph' by the Daily Telegraph, the 'utterly unmissable' Dance Til Dawn (Smooth Radio) and the 'fabulous must-see' The Last Tango (Radio Times).

Flavia says the dancer's fourth show will give fans something new. "It's always important to try something we've not done before. The fourth time round is difficult because we've done so many different stories.

"But we wanted this show to be more modern, more up to date, so the music will be a little more recognisable, particularly by the younger generation. It's music from the radio, it's set in an urban city and it's got that contemporary vibe. There'll be a story and we'll be part of the narration."

PASSION

Vincent added that dance was his great passion – but staying focused for a long UK tour was always tough.

"Motivation is the hardest part, to be honest. All the people that dance and do this job will agree. When it's live on stage it's great because you connect to the normal people. They are the people – mums, parents and so on – who keep you going.

"And that's great because they keep you sane. You suffer from solitude quite a lot because you're away every week at different hotels. Sometimes you wake up and think 'where am I?' because we travel so much."

Putting together a major new show is tough. It takes weeks and weeks of 10am-to-6pm rehearsals before a technical week ahead of the first show. Flavia says: "You have really long days and there is a bit of adrenalin and nerves. Once the show's up and running it eases off. We tend to do a half-hour warm-up before every show. We have a little time off and people do their own thing, going to the gym, resting or walking. You learn to do that, or you take a massage or see the physio."

Vincent moved to the UK when he was 17 to follow his dream of dancing.

"I wanted to become the best in the world, as everybody else does, so I moved here. It was a coincidence that I met Flavia, who was Italian and moved here at the age of four.

"Every day, we had dance lessons and were training. Our lives were really about that, you know, about competitions and trying to win. We wanted to get into the final and get the world championship. That was our lives."

The couple then got asked to do a couple of performances on Strictly before the show's producer asked them to become a part of it full-time.

Flavia said: "We didn't know how big the

Partners through time – Vincent and Flavia love dancing together



show was. Even now, I can't believe we've been through all of that. It was amazing."

Vincent says: "Before we were famous in the ballroom world and we could walk the high street. Now people stop us and want to have a photo. It was a shock to the system. Since then, we've never looked for work, it's come to us. We didn't think 'shall we do theatre?' The producers came to us and here we are."

Flavia adds: "It's been a long road and initially during the first part of our careers it was a hell of a lot of sacrifice. You think back and realise how hard you worked and that we didn't have a life. We were obsessed with the weekend being about travelling to an event and a competition and paying a £40 entry fee."

"Then at 10am we'd do round one and come out at 10pm in the evening. That was the weekend gone. Then it was dance lessons, practice rehearsals and training. Now we look back and it's 'wow'. We wouldn't do that again. My niece is dancing these days but I am so not-pro

You think back and realise how hard you worked and that we didn't have a life

dancing. I know how hard it is and what you have to go through. I'm trying to sway her off. It's really hard work. I know the sacrifice young people have to make in their teens and 20s. It can affect lots of things in later life. But it's worked for us and we've kept going and gone from one thing for another. We were lucky, things could have been very different. We don't regret anything."

The couple have visited Birmingham on plenty of occasions and always feel at home in the Second City. They're looking forward to their return and will be out and about in the city's restaurants and shops.

Flavia says: "We love Birmingham and are always happy to come up there. I remember places because of the shopping. I try to go to Lasan every time, if my husband comes up. He loves Birmingham too and studied there."

Vincent adds: "I used to buy, buy, buy. I'd buy one for the stage and one for myself. My wardrobe is exploding. So no more shopping. There might be a beautiful leather jacket, however, so you never know."

● For more entertainment news and reviews see The Ticket in your Express & Star every Friday.



John Legend



Legend to enjoy Darkness and Light at his concert

Acclaimed, multi-platinum selling, Oscar, Golden Globe and Grammy Award winning singer-songwriter John Legend brings his 'Darkness and Light' tour to the Arena Birmingham on Wednesday.

Featuring the singles Surefire and Love Me Now, the album Darkness and Light was released to critical acclaim in December 2016.

Since its release – the fifth studio album from the American singer – Legend has co-executive produced and starred in the box office smash musical La La Land, which has gone on to win seven Golden Globe

Awards and six Academy Awards. He also performed the title track to the recent Disney live action remake of Beauty and the Beast with the increasingly popular Ariana Grande.

It's worth getting to the Birmingham city centre venue early to catch support from husky-voiced singer-songwriter Jack Savoretti, who won lots of new fans with his albums Written in Scars and Sleep No More.

Tickets for the Barclaycard Arena date are on sale, starting at £51.53, from www.theticketfactory.com or by calling 0844 33 88 222.

A musician faces greatest challenge

Tom Kempinski's award-winning play Duet For One, about a talented musician struck down by a debilitating illness, is being staged at Birmingham Rep from September 22 to October 7.

In this powerful, moving and at times poignantly funny play, Stephanie Abrahams is a brilliant concert violinist who seemingly has it all, but is forced to re-evaluate her life by a shock diagnosis.

Faced with a truth too difficult to comprehend she consults psychiatrist Dr Feldmann, resulting

in a duel between two razor-sharp minds in Kempinski's ultimately life-enhancing tribute to the human spirit.

The play, which was inspired by the life of cellist Jacqueline Du Pré, premiered at the Bush Theatre in 1980 with Frances De La Tour and David de Keyser and had great success in West End and Broadway runs.

It also had a major revival in 2009 starring Juliet Stephenson and Henry Goodman.

The film adaptation of Duet For One, released in 1986, saw Julie Andrews nominated for the Golden Globe for Best Actress.

Jemma Redgrave was billed to play the role of Stephanie Abrahams but had to pull out of the production due to ill health.

Now the part is being played by Belinda Lang, pictured above, familiar from her TV roles in 2point4 Children and Second Thoughts.

She last trod the boards at Birmingham Rep in East is East.

Oliver Cotton, best known for his role as Cesare Borgia in BBC series The Borgias, will play Dr Feldmann.

Book tickets online at birmingham-rep.co.uk/duet or call 0121 236 4455.



Gary is gagging for new tour date

Stand-up comic Gary Delaney is bringing his There's Something About Gary show to Stourbridge Town Hall on Saturday.

The Solihull-born comic, married to fellow comedian Sarah Millican, is the only comic ever to have got two gags in the top 10 for Dave's TV Funniest Jokes. His last tour took in more than 200 venues. Delaney, a double Sony Award winner, is a regular on TV's Mock the Week.

Tickets fcost £15. Call the box office on 01384 812812 or see www.boroughhalls.co.uk website.



In the Nik of time for Kershaw's Robin gig

Singer Nik Kershaw will perform in Bilston later this month. The 56-year-old idol of the 80s, whose debut album Human Racing gave him his first UK top five hits with I Won't Let The Sun Go Down On Me and Wouldn't It Be Good, will be appearing at The Robin 2 in Mount Pleasant on Sunday, September 24.

Advance tickets are £25 from the box office on 01902 401211 or online at www.therobin.co.uk, or £27 on the door.

Other gigs to look out for include traditional 70s-style rockers The Quireboys at Wolverhampton Slade Rooms this Saturday, the same night Nick Dagger brings The Counterfeit Stones to the Robin 2.

Deborah Bonham is at the Slade Rooms next Friday, September 22, the same night Big Country, with singer Simon Hough, are at the Robin.

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Paddy McGuinness

Even Better Than the Real Thing (BBC1, 7pm)
Paddy McGuinness presents performances by some of the UK's best tribute artists, beginning with doubles of Whitney Houston, George Michael, Little Mix, Amy Winehouse and Bruno Mars, who perform individually and in never-before-seen duets. At the end of the show, the studio audience gets to vote on their favourite act of the night.

CHOICE

6.00 Breakfast. **10.00** Saturday Kitchen Live. **11.30** The Hairy Bikers' Comfort Food. (R) **12.00** Football Focus. **1.00** BBC News. Weather. **1.15** Live PDC Darts Champions League. Coverage of four group-stage matches. **4.30** Final Score. **5.25** BBC News. **5.35** Regional Programme. **5.40** Len Goodman's Partners in Rhyme.

6.10 **Pointless Celebrities.** TV experts Kieran Long, Piers Taylor, Martin Roberts, Amanda Lamb, Vicki Butler-Henderson, Tiff Needell, John Hammond and Laura Tobin compete in the unorthodox quiz show. (R)

7.00 **Even Better Than the Real Thing.** Paddy McGuinness presents some of the UK's best tribute artists, beginning with doubles of Whitney Houston, George Michael, Little Mix, Amy Winehouse and Bruno Mars.

8.00 **Who Dares Wins.** Nick Knowles hosts the game show in which two pairs of complete strangers team up, each battling to outdo the other by listing as much as they know about a given subject. The first couple to win two rounds get to play for £50,000 and each time the champions defeat a new set of opponents their winnings mount up. Last in the series.

8.45 **Casualty.** Dylan's attempt to reunite Sarosi with his uncle does not go according to plan, while Alicia wants to learn to drive, but a crash course with Elle ends in an accident.

9.35 **Mrs Brown's Boys.** Agnes ends up at the wrong venue after trying to gatecrash Maria's hen party. She then tries to impress the bride-to-be's mother during a dinner date, but the evening ends in chaos. (R)

10.05 **BBC News.** Weather.; National Lottery Update.

10.25 **Match of the Day.** Gary Lineker presents highlights of the latest Premier League matches, including Watford v Manchester City at Vicarage Road and Tottenham Hotspur v Swansea City at Wembley Stadium.

11.55 **People Just Do Nothing.** Grindah goes on his stag night, but ends up having cold feet while Beats makes a mistake when booking the stripper.

12.25 **Film:** The Uninvited. (2009) **1.45** Weather for the Week Ahead. **1.50** BBC News.

BBC2

6.00 The NFL Show. (R) **6.30** How We Won the War. (R) **7.00** **Film:** My Favorite Wife. (1940) A man remarries seven years after his wife's disappearance – then finds his life thrown into turmoil by her unexpected return. Screwball comedy, with Cary Grant and Irene Dunne. **8.25** James Mason: Talking Pictures. (R) **9.05** **Film:** Hotel Reserve. (1944) Thriller, starring James Mason. **10.30** Railways of the Great War with Michael Portillo. (R) **11.00** Coast. (R) **12.00** Len and Ainsley's Big Food Adventure. (R) **12.45** Triathlon: World Grand Final. Ore Oduba introduces coverage of the season finale in Rotterdam, featuring the men's and women's elite races. With analysis by Annie Emmerson and Vicky Holland. **5.15** The Big Family Cooking Showdown. (R)

6.15 **Dad's Army.** Mainwaring and his platoon set up an observation post in the local lighthouse, but manage to annoy ARP warden Hodges by inadvertently flooding the whole town with light during an air raid. Comedy first shown in 1970, starring Arthur Lowe and John Le Mesurier. (R)

6.45 **PDC Champions League of Darts.** Jason Mohammad presents coverage of four further group-stage matches from Motorpoint Arena in Cardiff, as the second staging of the competition featuring the world's top eight players continues. This session will see the four winners from this afternoon's clashes face each other, while the four losers from those contests will be involved in the other games.

10.15 **The A-Z of Later – with Jools Holland: From Adele to ZZ Top.** Highlights from the past 25 years of the music programme, including the TV debuts of Adele and Amy Winehouse, as well as performances by Sting, Chrissie Hynde and Rag 'n' Bone Man.

11.45 **Film: The White Countess.** (2005) A relationship develops between a blind former American diplomat and a Russian refugee in 1930s Shanghai. Period romantic drama, with Ralph Fiennes and Natasha Richardson.

1.50 **Film:** Renoir. (2012) The elderly impressionist painter finds fresh inspiration in a model, but his son falls in love with her. Drama, with Michel Bouquet, Christa Theret and Vincent Rottiers. **3.35** This Is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITV: Sooty. **6.10** Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids. (R) **6.20** Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids. (R) **6.35** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **6.45** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **7.00** Mission Employable. (R) **7.20** Super 4. (R) **7.30** Oddbods. (R) **7.40** Super 4. (R) **7.50** Scrambled!: Scrambled! **7.35** Scrambled!: The Tom and Jerry Show. (R) **7.50** Scrambled!: Fongbone. (R) **8.10** Scrambled!: The Powerpuff Girls. (R) **8.30** Scrambled!: Star Wars: The Yoda Chronicles. (R) **9.05** Scrambled!: Adventure Time. **9.25** Saturday Morning with James Martin. **11.20** The Hungry Sailors. (R) **12.20** ITV News; Weather. **12.25** The X Factor. (R) **1.30** ITV Racing: Live at Doncaster. Including coverage of day three of the St Leger meeting in Doncaster. **4.00** **Film:** Bean. (1997) Comedy, starring Rowan Atkinson. **5.35** Regional Programme ; Weather. **5.45** ITV News; Weather.

6.00 **The Family Chase.**

7.00 **Cannonball.** Andrew Flintoff hosts the action-packed game show, in which contestants tackle a series of water-based, obstacle course challenges in the hope of claiming the Cannonball Cup.

8.00 **The X Factor.** Talent contest, hosted by Dermot O'Leary, in which solo singers and groups compete to impress judges Sharon Osbourne, Nicole Scherzinger, Louis Walsh and Simon Cowell and win a recording contract.

9.15 **The Jonathan Ross Show.** The host is joined by some of the stars of The Great British Bake-Off, with old hand Paul Hollywood and new presenter Noel Fielding dropping in to discuss the current series in its new home on Channel 4. Jonathan also chats to the cast of spy comedy sequel Kingsman: The Golden Circle, welcoming Taron Egerton, who reprises his role from the original film as trainee spy Eggsy, and a trio of Oscar-winners in the shape of Jeff Bridges, Halle Berry and Julianne Moore. Craig David completes tonight's guest list, and performs live in the studio.

10.20 **ITV News.** Weather.

10.35 **Film: The Nutty Professor.** (1996) Comedy remake, starring Eddie Murphy, Jada Pinkett Smith and James Coburn.

12.20 Jackpot247. **3.00** The Hungry Sailors. (R) **3.50** ITV Nightscreen.

CHANNEL 4

6.10 Motor Sport: Volkswagen Racing Cup. **6.40** Triathlon: Victoria-Gasteiz. **7.05** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **7.35** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.00** Frasier. (R) **8.30** Frasier. (R) **9.00** Frasier. (R) **9.30** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **10.00** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **10.25** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **10.55** Formula 1 Singapore Grand Prix Practice 3 Live. **12.25** F1 Meets Jackie Stewart. **12.55** Formula 1 Singapore Grand Prix Qualifying Live. Coverage of the Singapore Grand Prix qualifying session (Start-time 1.00pm). **3.45** World's Most Expensive Cars. **4.45** A Place in the Sun: Winter Sun. (R) **5.35** Location, Location, Location. (R)

6.30 **Channel 4 News.**

7.00 **Dunkirk: The New Evidence.** Documentary examining the famous Second World War evacuation of Allied soldiers – codenamed Operation Dynamo – from the beaches of Dunkirk, France, between May 26 and June 4, 1940. Recently released Ministry of Defence files reveal that, far from being absent as many historians have believed, the RAF was suffering massive losses supporting the evacuation. Operating at high altitude and deep inside France, RAF planes were halting the bulk of Luftwaffe bombers before they could reach the beaches. The files also reveal that the famous Spitfire took flight for the first time during the mission, and the agile fighter was a spectacular success. (R)

8.00 **WWII's Great Escapes: The Freedom Trails.** New series. Monty Hall's reveals stories of Allied soldiers who escaped from Nazi territory during the Second World War, starting with the most successful mass escape of Allied POWs.

9.00 **Film: Super 8.** (2011) A boy and his friends sneak out at night to film an amateur zombie movie, only to witness a train derailment. As people start disappearing from their town and the military descends in force, they come to realise a dangerous alien was being transported on the train and is now on the loose. Sci-fi thriller, starring Joel Courtney.

11.20 **Film: The Mortal Instruments: City of Bones.** (2013)

1.35 Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA. (R) **2.30** Hollyoaks. **4.35** Location, Location, Location. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake! **10.20** Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. (R) **10.55** Animals Make You Laugh Out Loud 2. (R) **11.20** **Film:** Columbus: Grand Deceptions. (1989) **1.15** **Film:** Columbus: Murder, Smoke and Shadows. (1989) Crime drama, starring Peter Falk. **3.10** Nightmare Tenants, Slum Landlords. (R) **4.10** The Nightmare Neighbour Next Door. (R) **5.10** The Nightmare Neighbour Next Door. (R) **6.05** **Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away.** Agents Max and Steve try to recover almost £2,000 owed by the owner of a bridal shop in London, while officers Gary and Cona in Kent chase over £4,000 of vet fees after two neighbouring dogs got into a fight. Elsewhere, agents in south west London, agents try to collect almost £11,500 owed by a small business. (R)

7.00 **Can't Pay Special: Big Family Bust Up.** One-off edition in which the High Court enforcement agents are caught in the crossfire of three bitter family disputes, including a debt-dodging man who pushes his panic-stricken mother over the edge. Plus, a family booted onto the streets at night by a ruthless aunt, and a man who won't engage with the agents and loses his car. (R)

8.00 **The Great Fire: Death and Destruction.** The worst day of the inferno, revealing how St Paul's Cathedral burned so fiercely its stones exploded and Pudding Lane baker Thomas Farriner made sure no blame landed on him. (R)

8.55 **5 News Weekend.**

9.00 **Football on 5: The Championship.** Colin Murray introduces highlights from the weekend's games in the Championship, including Barnsley v Aston Villa at Oakwell, Hull City v Sunderland at KCOM Stadium, and Millwall v Leeds United at The Den.

10.00 **Football on 5: Goal Rush.** Colin Murray introduces all the goals from the weekend's games in Leagues One and Two, including Blackburn Rovers v AFC Wimbledon, and Lincoln City v Mansfield Town.

10.30 **The NCIS Movie: Legend.** Feature-length episode. The agents travel to LA to work with another NCIS team on an investigation that escalates into a high-priority case, and Tony begins to pry into Ziva's life. (R)

12.05 Cricket on 5. **1.05** SuperCasino. **3.10** Ring of Fire.

DIGITAL

BBC Four

7.00 The Brain with David Eagleman

8.00 Swarm: Nature's Incredible Invasions **9.00** Black Lake **10.25** Easter Island: Mysteries of a Lost World **11.55** Top of the Pops: 1984 **12.30** Timeshift: The People's Liners – Britain's Lost Pleasure Fleets **1.30** A Very British Map: The Ordnance Survey Story **2.30** Swarm: Nature's Incredible Invasions **3.30** Close

ITV2

12.00 **Film:** Sweet Home Alabama (2002) **1.05** FYI Daily **1.10** **Film:** Sweet Home Alabama (2002) **2.10** The X Factor **3.15** **Film:** The Incredible Hulk (2008) **4.15** FYI Daily **4.20** **Film:** The Incredible Hulk (2008) **5.25** FYI: King Kong (2005) **6.25** FYI Daily **6.30** **Film:** King Kong (2005) **9.00** **Film:** The Fast and the Furious (2001) **10.05** FYI Daily **10.10** **Film:** The Fast and the Furious (2001) **11.10** Family Guy **12.35** American Dad! **1.05** Celebrity Juice **2.05** Bromans **3.00** Teleshopping

ITV3

12.00 **Film:** Carry On Matron (1972) **1.05** FYI Daily **1.10** **Film:** Carry On Matron (1972) **1.50** Wycliffe **2.55** Foyle's War **7.00** Agatha Christie's Marple **9.00** Midsomer Murders **11.00** A Touch of Frost **1.10** On the Buses **2.05** ITV3 Nightscreen **2.30** Teleshopping

ITV4

11.45 Pawn Stars **3.25** **Film:** The Pink Panther (1963) **4.25** FYI Daily **4.30** **Film:** The Pink Panther (1963) **5.45** **Film:** Ferris Bueller's Day Off (1986) **6.45** FYI Daily **6.50** **Film:** Ferris Bueller's Day Off (1986) **7.45** Live Boxing. Callum Smith v Erik Skoglund. **11.30** **Film:** Tango & Cash (1989) **12.30** FYI Daily **12.35** **Film:** Tango & Cash (1989) **1.40** The Classic Car Show **2.35** ITV4 Nightscreen **3.00** Teleshopping

E4

12.15 Rude(ish) Tube Shorts **12.30** The Goldbergs **2.00** Streetmate **3.00** Don't Tell the Bride **4.00** The Great British Bake Off **5.15** The Great British Bake Off: An Extra Slice **6.05** The Big Bang Theory **9.00** **Film:** Bad Teacher (2011) **10.50** Naked Attraction **11.55** Celebs Go Dating **3.00** Tattoo Fixers on Holiday **3.55** How I Met Your Mother **4.40** Rude(ish) Tube

Film4

11.00 Marmaduke (2010) **1.00** The Rugrats Movie (1999) **2.35** The Three Musketeers (1973) **4.45** Field of Dreams (1989) **6.55** Dante's Peak (1997) **9.00** 2 Guns (2013) **11.10** Nina Forever (2015) **1.15** Black Swan (2010) **3.30** Close

COMMERCIAL FEATURE

FANTASTIC CARVERY 7 DAYS A WEEK

They always say never judge a book by its cover so we decided to check out The Park Lane Tavern in Colley Gate, and I have to say what was on offer in there was a total surprise.



It serves a carvery option 7 days a week from midday which consists of a choice of 4 meats, turkey, beef, pork and gammon and accompanied by stuffing, Yorkshire puddings and up to 12 vegetables, topped off with what they call their “secret recipe gravy” known also as what mother used to make! All this for just £4.99 for a lunchtime meal or £5.99 evenings and Saturdays and £7.99 for Sunday lunch represents extremely good value by today's standards.

They also don't forget their mini diners with ‘Kids Eat Free’ Monday to Saturday between 3pm and 6pm and during school holidays it's All Day Monday to Saturday.

But it doesn't stop their they also have a full main menu consisting of the classic pub favourites such as steaks, mixed grills, burgers and fish and chips, where the fish would not be out of place in any issue of ‘Moby Dick’. To finish is there very tempting dessert menu, that's if you have room after the size of meals you get at The Park Lane Tavern.

Then if that's not enough choice for you you can also choose for the breakfast which is served Friday, Saturday and Sunday 08.30am until 11.00am. Their breakfast is a buffet style ‘All you can eat’ with enough choice to satisfy any diner from eggs 2 ways, bacon, sausage, mushrooms, baked beans, hash browns, black pudding, grilled fresh tomatoes, toast & fried bread. There's even



jam for your toast if you still not full after all that.

Half Price Monday

They also host special evenings like their ‘Half Price Monday’ which has proven to be very popular, and why not, already reasonably priced selected main meals off their main menu (which includes steaks) at half price served between 5pm and 8pm every Monday. Also their psychic evenings where for £15 you get a reading from a medium and a carvery, for those believers amongst you that must be a bargain.

You get a very friendly feeling when you enter The Park Lane Tavern and that's mostly down to the staff. Happy to see you and always keen to help. They have a lot of regular customers and it's been known for a customer's drink to be poured and waiting for them before they reach the bar, you don't see that at many places nowadays.

There are no airs or graces at The Park Lane Tavern, you get delicious food at great prices served by happy staff in a comfortable environment. No wonder this place has people returning time after time.

CHOICE



Richard Madden
Electric Dreams: The Hood Maker
(Channel 4, 9pm)
New series. Sci-fi anthology series featuring stories based on the works of Philip K Dick. The first story is set in a strangely archaic future city, following a devastating meteor shower that has wiped out much of the world's technology. The cataclysm has also led to the development of a breed of telepathic mutants, and as tensions arise between the new race of 'teeps' and the remnants of humanity, war seems inevitable. The only hope of stopping the conflict falls with a human and a teep struggling to suppress their feelings for one another.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **7.30** Match of the Day. (R) **9.00** The Andrew Marr Show. **10.00** Sunday Morning Live. **11.00** Regional Programme. **12.15** Bargain Hunt. (R) **1.00** BBC News: Weather. **1.15** Fake or Fortune? (R) **2.15** Money for Nothing. (R) **3.00** Escape to the Country. (R) **3.45** Points of View. **4.00** Songs of Praise. **4.35** How to Stay Young. (R) **5.35** Invictus: Battle to the Start Line.
6.35 BBC News.
7.00 Regional Programme.
7.00 Countryfile. Ellie Harrison celebrates the Lake District becoming a World Heritage Site, examining the factors that allow an area to become a protected landscape and examining how local people have shaped the national park. Plus, a look ahead to this year's Children in Need Big Rumble with a father and son who are raising money for the charity, and details of how viewers can take part in the event.
8.00 Fake or Fortune? Fiona Bruce and art expert Philip Mould investigate the first work of sculpture featured on the show, an unusual piece called The Gazing Head, which may have been made by Alberto Giacometti in 1930s Paris. The quest to uncover the truth is complicated by the fact that the sculpture was once broken into several pieces by a cat. Last in the series.
9.00 Strike – The Silkworm. Conclusion of the two-part adaptation of JK Rowling's detective novel. Strike and Robin become suspicious of Fancourt after he makes a revealing mistake during a TV interview, while an encounter at a party leads to further suspicious revelations. The authorship of the fatal novel comes under question, and a literary analyst is called in to examine the test. Matthew is less than happy to discover that Strike and Robin are working together again, while Leonora discovers a mysterious purchase was made on the family credit card.
10.00 BBC News.
10.20 Regional Programme.
10.30 Match of the Day 2. Mark Chapman reviews the latest Premier League action.
11.30 Fugitives. (R)
12.15 Weather for the Week Ahead.
12.20 BBC News.

BBC2

6.05 Great British Garden Revival. (R) **7.05** Gardeners' World. (R) **8.05** The Beechgrove Garden. **8.35** Countryfile. (R) **9.30** Saturday Kitchen Best Bites. **11.00** Lorraine's Fast, Fresh and Easy Food. (R) **11.30** My Life on a Plate. (R) **12.15** MOTD2 Extra. **1.00** PDC Champions League of Darts. Coverage of the concluding group-stage matches from Motorpoint Arena in Cardiff, as the second staging of the competition featuring the world's top eight players continues. **4.30** Tribes, Predators & Me. (R) **5.30** Top Gear. (R)
6.30 PDC Champions League of Darts. Jason Mohammad presents coverage of the semi-finals and final from Cardiff's Motorpoint Arena, as the players to have progressed through the group stage hope to claim the £100,000 first prize. These matches will take place over the best of 21 legs, as the winner of the second staging of this tournament is set to be decided.
10.00 Film: Risk. (2016) Premiere. Documentary following Wikileaks founder Julian Assange over the course of six years during his political asylum in the Ecuadorian embassy in London, as he sought to avoid extradition to Sweden on sexual assault allegations. The programme examines how Assange's situation impacted on the organisation and movement he had created, and the conflicts and contradictions within his inner circle.
11.25 Film: The Devil's Double. (2011) An Iraqi soldier is forced to become a double for Saddam Hussein's sadistic son Uday to distract assassins. His new role plunges him into a world of depravity, as he becomes a first-hand witness to the acts of murder and violence Uday routinely indulges in. Drama, starring Dominic Cooper, Ludvine Sagnier and Philip Quast.
1.10 Sign Zone: Question Time. David Dimbleby chairs a new run of topical debate in which a panel of politicians and other guests face questions from the audience. Stratford in east London is the location for the first show, with guests including novelist Will Self. (R) **2.10** Holby City. As Guy's behaviour becomes increasingly erratic, Zosia's concerns put her in an impossible position, and Doña is shocked when her patient has a surprising visitor. (R) **3.10** This Is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITV: Sooty. **6.10** Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids. (R) **6.30** Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids. (R) **6.35** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **6.45** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **7.00** Mission: Employable. (R) **7.05** Oddbods. (R) **7.10** Oddbods. (R) **7.20** Super 4. (R) **7.30** Scrambled!: Scrambled! **7.35** Scrambled!: The Tom and Jerry Show. (R) **7.50** Scrambled!: Mr Bean: The Animated Series. (R) **8.30** Scrambled!: Ben 10. (R) **8.30** Scrambled!: Be Cool, Scooby-Doo! (R) **9.05** Scrambled!: Adventure Time. **9.25** ITV News. **9.30** James Martin's French Adventure. (R) **9.55** Film: Problem Child. (1990) **11.30** Robson Green's Coastal Lives. (R) **12.30** ITV News: Weather. **12.40** Bear Grylls Survival School. (R) **1.10** Catchphrase. (R) **1.50** The X Factor. (R) **3.00** Film: Never Say Never Again. (1983) **5.35** Victoria. (R)
6.35 Regional Programme: Weather.
6.45 ITV News: Weather.
7.00 Tipping Point: Lucky Stars. Ben Shephard presents a celebrity edition of the quiz, in which Professor Green, Sair Khan and Sean Kelly answer questions to win turns on an arcade-style machine.
8.00 The X Factor. Talent contest, hosted by Dermot O'Leary, in which solo singers and groups compete to win a recording contract.
9.00 Victoria. The royal court celebrates the birth of the Queen's second child, but Victoria alone is unhappy as she struggles to bond with her newborn son. A crisis compels Albert to return to Coburg, separating the couple for the first time since their wedding, and on his arrival, he learns a terrible family secret that leaves him plunged into torment. Skerrett makes a disastrous mistake that puts Francatelli in jeopardy, while Drummond's relationship with Lord Alfred comes under threat by a reluctant revelation.
10.05 ITV News: Weather.
10.20 Judge Rinder's Crime Stories. Barrister Robert Rinder examines the cases of six children killed in a house fire that may not have been an accident and a woman who suffered a brutal attack in her own home. (R)
11.20 Liar. (R)
12.15 Jackpot247. **3.00** Motorsport UK. **3.50** British Superbike Championship Highlights.

CHANNEL 4

6.20 Last Man Standing. **6.40** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **7.05** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **7.30** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.00** Frasier. (R) **8.30** Frasier. (R) **9.00** Sunday Brunch. **12.00** Formula 1 Singapore Grand Prix Live Build-Up. A look ahead to the race. **12.35** Formula 1 Singapore Grand Prix Live. Coverage of the 14th race of the season (Start-time 1.00pm). **3.10** Formula 1 Singapore Grand Prix Live Reaction. In-depth analysis of this afternoon's race. **4.15** The Crystal Maze. (R) **5.15** The Great British Bake Off. (R)
6.30 Channel 4 News.
7.00 Amazing Spaces Shed of the Year. George Clarke presides over the final categories, for eco-friendly and budget sheds, before the judges decide which of the eight finalists is this year's winner. Last in the series.
8.00 Speed with Guy Martin: F1 Challenge. The motorcycle racer joins a Formula One pit crew during the 2017 Belgian Grand Prix, learning the split second timing that allows a team to change four tyres in 1.92 seconds.
9.00 Electric Dreams: The Hood Maker. New series. Sci-fi anthology series based on the works of Philip K Dick. In the aftermath of a catastrophic meteor shower, war brews between surviving humans and telepathic mutants.
10.10 Lee Mack: Hit the Road Mack. The comedian performs at London's Hammersmith Apollo in a show from his 2014 tour. (R)
11.05 Film: Slumdog Millionaire. (2008) An uneducated teenager from the Mumbai slums is only one question away from winning a quiz show, but the authorities are reluctant to believe a youngster from such a humble background could succeed without cheating. Under questioning, he tells a police inspector the eventual story of his life – and how he came to know so much. Danny Boyle's Oscar-winning drama, starring Dev Patel and Freida Pinto.
1.20 The Supertet: Bionic Specials. The owner of a one-year-old cat born with deformed front legs hopes Professor Noel Fitzpatrick will be able to fit it with two new bionic feet. (R) **2.15** Gillette World Sport. **2.45** KOTV Boxing Weekly. **3.10** Location, Location, Location. (R) **4.10** Building the Dream. (R) **5.05** Four in a Bed. (R) **5.30** Too Many Cooks. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake!: Poppy Cat. **6.10** Little Princess. (R) **6.25** Mr Men. (R) **6.35** Milkshake! Monkey. (R) **6.40** Milkshake! Bopping About. (R) **6.45** Simon. (R) **6.50** Peppa Pig. (R) **6.55** Wissper. (R) **7.05** Paw Patrol. (R) **7.15** Bob the Builder. (R) **7.25** Fireman Sam. (R) **7.40** Olly the Little White Van. (R) **7.50** Paw Patrol. (R) **8.05** Blaze and the Monster Machines. (R) **8.35** Noddy: Toyland Detective. (R) **8.50** Flogals. (R) **9.00** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) **9.20** Shimmer and Shine. (R) **9.35** Digby Dragon. (R) **9.50** Peppa Pig. (R) **9.55** Peppa Pig. (R) **10.05** Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. (R) **10.40** Football on 5: The Championship. (R) **11.30** Football on 5: Goal Rush. (R) **12.00** Police Interceptors. (R) **1.00** Police Interceptors. (R) **2.00** Police Interceptors. (R) **3.00** Film: Open Season. (2006) Animated comedy, with the voice of Martin Lawrence. **4.45** Film: Annie. (2014) Premiere. Musical remake, starring Quvenzhané Wallis and Jamie Foxx. **5.45** 5 News Update. **5.50** Film: Annie. (2014) Premiere. Concluded.
7.05 Before They Were Stars. Dale Winton treks back through the TV archive to uncover embarrassing early brushes with fame endured by some of today's biggest stars. (R)
8.00 Aviva Premiership Rugby Highlights. Mark Durden-Smith and David Flatman introduce action from the third round of matches, including Northampton Saints v Bath, Worcester Warriors v Exeter Chiefs and Wasps v Harlequins.
8.55 5 News Weekend.
9.00 How Magic Changed TV. The story of magic on television, examining the challenges of performing illusions for a TV camera that can see everything. Some of the most successful modern magicians reveal the performers who inspired them, and take a look back at how performers like Paul Daniels, Penn & Teller, Derren Brown, David Blaine and Dynamo transformed the art form.
11.05 When Magic Goes Wrong. Illusions that went spectacularly badly, including stories of magicians' brushes with death, as well as mishaps involving Dynamo, Paul Daniels and David Blaine. (R)
1.45 SuperCasino. **3.10** Gotham. (R) **4.00** Now That's Funny! (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Four
7.00 The Last Night of the Proms from Around the UK **8.30** Secret Voices of Hollywood **10.00** Cinema Through the Eye of Magnum **10.55** Clara Bow: Hollywood's Lost Screen Goddess **11.55** Precision: The Measure of All Things **12.55** Apples, Pears and Paint: How to Make a Still Life Painting **2.25** Cinema Through the Eye of Magnum **3.20** Close
ITV2
11.40 The X Factor **12.55** Take Me Out **2.10** Film: Step Up 2: The Streets (2008) **3.10** FYI Daily **3.15** Film: Step Up 2: The Streets (2008) **4.15** Film: The Smurfs (2011) **5.15** FYI Daily **5.20** Film: The Smurfs (2011) **6.20** Film: Evan Almighty (2007) **7.20** FYI Daily **7.25** Film: Evan Almighty (2007) **8.10** Film: Gravity (2013) **9.10** FYI Daily **9.15** Film: Gravity (2013) **10.00** Family Guy **11.30** American Dad! **1.25** The Cleveland Show **2.15** Teleshopping **5.45** ITV2 Nightscreen
ITV3
2.05 Film: Carry On Up the Jungle (1970) **3.10** FYI Daily **3.15** Film: Carry On Up the Jungle (1970) **3.55** Wildlife **5.00** Agatha Christie's Marple **7.00** Midsummer Murders **9.00** Tonight at the Palladium **10.00** Kate: The Making of a Modern Queen **11.00** Sherlock Holmes: The Last Vampyre **1.10** The Knock **3.00** Mr Selfridge **4.15** Griff's Great Britain **5.05** Judge Judy **5.25** ITV3 Nightscreen
ITV4
11.00 Live British Touring Car Championship. **6.30** Pavin Stars **7.00** Fishing Allstars **8.00** The Chase Celebrity Special **9.00** Film: Airplane! (1980) **10.10** FYI Daily **10.15** Film: Airplane! (1980) **10.50** Car Crash Global **11.50** Film: Universal Soldier: Regeneration (2009) **1.10** FYI Daily **1.15** Film: Universal Soldier: Regeneration (2009) **1.50** River Monsters **2.45** ITV4 Nightscreen **3.00** Teleshopping
E4
11.00 Don't Tell the Bride **12.00** Streetmate **12.30** My Hotter Half **1.40** Film: Confessions of a Teenage Drama Queen (2004) **3.25** The Goldbergs **5.00** The Big Bang Theory **8.00** Film: Home Alone (1990) **10.00** Naked Attraction **11.05** Gogglebox **12.10** Celebs Go Dating **2.15** Don't Tell the Bride **3.05** Rude Tube **3.35** Holyoaks
Film4
1.00 Bridge to Terabithia (2007) **2.50** Carry On Spying (1964) **4.35** Moonrise Kingdom (2012) **6.25** Battleship (2012) **9.00** The Mechanic (2011) **10.50** Welcome to the Punch (2013) **12.50** The King of Comedy (1983) **3.05** Close



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FILM CHOICES

MONDAY

Drive Angry, Channel 5, 11.05pm

A man breaks out of Hell when a satanic cult murders his daughter and kidnaps her baby. The infernal escapee pursues the leader of the fanatics, who plans to sacrifice the child to gain ultimate power – but he is being followed in turn by an agent of the Devil sent to take him back to his damnation. Fantasy thriller, starring Nicolas Cage, Amber Heard and William Fichtner. (2011)

TUESDAY

The Deadly Room: Garage Sale Mystery III, Channel 5, 3.15pm

Jennifer Shannon has a keen eye for a bargain, picking them up at garage sales and selling them for a tidy profit in her own shop. But she also has a nose for a mystery, which comes in handy when she uses her intuitive skills to investigate her friend's death in a multi-million-dollar home with a dark history. Crime drama based on Suzi Weinert's novel, starring Lori Loughlin and Brendan Meyer. (2015)



Drive Angry, Monday, Channel 5, 11.05pm

WEDNESDAY

My Mother's Secret, Channel 5, 3.15pm

Adopted teacher Lauren Coulson tries to find out more of her family roots, and soon uncovers her father in prison for killing her grandfather. He claims he is innocent and her weak and frightened biological mother refuses to tell what she knows. Further impediments seem intent on preventing Lauren from finding the truth. Thriller, starring Nicole de Boer. (2012)

THURSDAY

Abducted Love, Channel 5, 3.15pm

After her husband is abducted on his way to work, Ann Bradshaw and her teenage daughter Casey find themselves in danger when they help the police investigate the kidnapping. Thriller, starring Daphne Zuniga and Nicole Munoz. (2016)

FRIDAY

A Few Best Men, BBC1, 12.05am

An Englishman proposes to his Australian girlfriend, but the antics of his three best men turn the wedding into a disaster. Comedy, starring Xavier Samuel and Laura Brent. (2011)

It's a dog's life for the doctor as the series returns

Will we ever grow tired of Dr Martin Ellingham and his adventures?

It's 13 years since the first series of Doc Martin aired, and our love for it continues to grow. In fact, it's been somewhat painful to be without new episodes during the past couple of years.

But now Martin Clunes and the rest of Portwenn's familiar faces are back for a new run, which will also see Sigourney Weaver reprise her guest role as an American tourist, and Clunes' old Men Behaving Badly sparring partner Caroline Quentin return as eccentric vet Angela Sim. Art Malik is also set to pop up as a visitor with intriguing news.

For Clunes, returning as the grumpy medic was a no-brainer – he describes playing him as “the best job in telly,” adding, “what could possibly match this: staying in the West country, surrounded by dogs and people I like?”

“I really love doing this. I love everything about it. I love being in

Cornwall, even though I hate being away from home. If I have got to be away from home then I'd be here. I love being near the sea. I love being out of cities.”

Clunes, along with his wife Philippa Braithwaite, is one of the show's producers via their company Buffalo Pictures, and as a thank you to the people of Port Isaac, where the programme is filmed, they have set up a trust fund to help pay for a few local amenities, including a new car park – after all, the hundreds of people who come to watch them film have to be able to put their vehicles somewhere.

“The crowds who come to watch have to be marshalled but we have not shied away from it because the village is such a part of the series,” says Clunes. “It never bothers me to see the crowds watching us filming. I talk to them, I look at their dogs. The most helpful thing is the dogs. You don't have to talk just about the fact you're on the telly, you can talk about the dogs.”

As you can probably tell (if you weren't already away), Clunes is mad about canines. Sadly, his alter ego can't stand them, so imagine his horror when the Doc is forced to take in Buddy after his wife Louisa tells him that having a dog will be good for their son James Henry.

“The Doc is making a real effort to make things work between him and Louisa, and to be a better husband and father.

“As ever the Doc would rather nothing changed, and is resilient to the notion of change almost for the sake of it, but he sees that having the dog living with them is something Louisa wants, and is ultimately supportive, and actually allows a dog into the house.

“But the introduction of the dog is a token,” adds Clunes. “It's a trial period with strict parameters, and when no-one is looking he throws the dog out...”

Will Buddy eventually win him over? Let's hope so for all their sakes.



Martin Clunes stars in Doc Martin, Wednesday, ITV, 9pm

BEST OF THE REST

MONDAY

W1A

BBC2, 10pm

For a while, it seemed that we had seen the last of Ian Fletcher and his Head of Values team. For two years we've been without their hapless machinations brightening up our screens – had bosses at the Beeb decided that the mockumentary's antics made them look foolish? Perish the thought! Thankfully it seems they do have a sense of humour and are happy to poke fun at themselves because the sitcom is back for a third series this week. Once again Hugh Bonneville plays the nice but mostly completely ineffective Ian, who must find a way of making the BBC's new mantra of ‘doing more of less’ work. As ever, he is assisted – or more often than not hampered – by a motley group of individuals played by Sarah Parish, Jessica Hynes, Jason Watkins, Hugh Skinner and Nina Sosanya.

TUESDAY

Robson Green's Coastal Lives

ITV, 8pm

You don't need to trek to far-flung lands to witness incredible sights and people, as this series proves. This week the presenter travels to the island of Anglesey, off the north coast of Wales, to meet a

family who live in an ancient fisherman's cottage in the Menai Straits that they have restored. Robson also meets a woman who has left her stressful life in the city to set up a paddle boarding company on the island. And he chats a couple who have spent 12 years renovating their dream cliff top home with spectacular views over the Irish Sea.

WEDNESDAY

Bad Move

ITV, 8pm

Jack Dee may have started out as a stand-up comedian, but in recent years he's dabbled in the sitcom world. Power Monkeys, Josh and Lead Balloon. Now he's back with Bad Move, in which he stars alongside Kerry Godliman, who's best known for playing Hannah opposite Ricky Gervais in Derek. They play married couple Steve and Nicky, who have both been wed before but are feeling a little fed up with their lot. As a result, they decide to swap their city life for a new existence in the country – and soon with they hadn't. The first episodes of sitcoms are rarely hilarious, serving only to introduce the characters and the premise, but this one shows

plenty of promise, and we look forward to seeing how it develops over its six-part run.

THURSDAY

The Supervet

Channel 4, 8pm

New series. Noel Fitzpatrick and his team return to provide more cutting-edge animal care, beginning with a dramatic emergency. Staffordshire bull terrier Lulu has been hit by a car and had her pelvis smashed into more than 25 pieces. The professor's only option is to pin the larger pieces back together in an operation that will require all his expertise. Noel and his team also treat a giant schnauzer called Florence who has a sore knee, and a Jack Russell called Muffin who has a problem with her back legs.

FRIDAY

Celebrity 5 Go

Motorhoming

Channel 5, 8pm

The warm and gentle four-part

series reaches its destination this week and who would have thought that following five ageing stars of stage and screen in their motorhomes would be so much fun? The final leg of their journey sees Lesley Joseph, Don Warrington, Melvyn Hayes, Nick Heyward and Cleo Rocos reach the Isle of Skye, or as the Vikings called it, the Cloudy Isle – and the weather certainly lives up to its name. High on the spirit of adventure, the famous five are determined to have a good time and, over a cup of tea and an impromptu jam, the bond between actor Melvyn and 80s pop star Nick is cemented. Meanwhile, Lesley, Cleo and Don spend a day driving around Skye searching for the island's beauty spots, before Cleo rustles up a feast for the friends back in camp.

Celebrity MasterChef

BBC1, 8.30pm

The three remaining celebrities take part in the Masterchef final. In the first round, they must take on one of the toughest challenges in the competition – The Chef's Table, hosted by Michelin star chef Jason Atherton. Then, it's back to the Masterchef kitchen to present a three-course meal to John and Gregg for the final time, before one of the celebrities will be crowned Masterchef champion. Last in the series.

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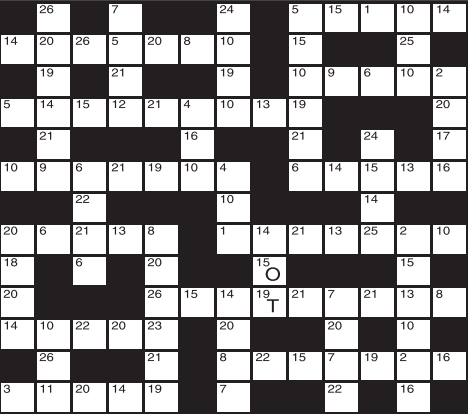
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BRAIN GYM

No.447

Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



1	14
2	15 O
3	16
4	17
5	18
6	19 T
7	20
8	21
9	22
10	23
11	24
12	25
13	26

Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.

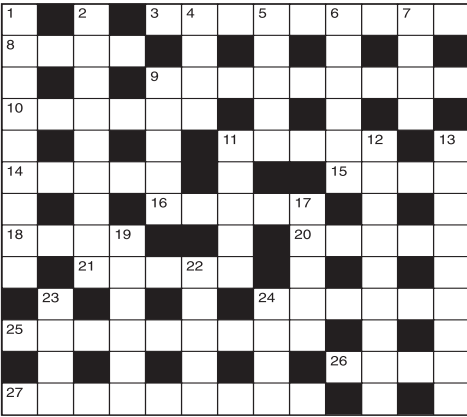
Cryptic Clues:

Across

- Grieved because date with Cliff completely spoilt (9)
- Get a dirty look and stagger back (4)
- Strengthen power to check a horse (9)
- He helps the golfer - make the boulder expire! (6)
- Fear of adder (5)
- Striker in a game (5)
- Enjoy being similar (4)
- Will marry - but not under their own steam (5)
- Charge to a holy island (4)
- Agree could be keen (5)
- Have black wood by one (5)
- The proletariat apparently consists of 1000 donkeys! (6)
- Tried best room to rent (3-6)
- There's some lack of coherence in this area (4)
- I'd enter now as chairman (9)

Down

- It's a crime to make letters strike-bound (9)
- The way the boss speaks is over grave (9)
- Released without charge (4)
- Obviously not the outside shell of a big ship (5)
- From the choir in our church or All Saints (6)
- Engrave, and so on, with hot tip (4)
- One side is correct, it would seem (5)
- Wordy apportionment to husband (5)
- Far from pleased with sets I'd dug out (9)
- Newspapers indeed put one in low spirits! (9)
- Exclude beard (5)
- Sailor employs corrupt practices (6)
- Famous now Edward has gone (5)
- Well loved, but at some cost (4)
- Intend to be stingy (4)



Quick Clues:

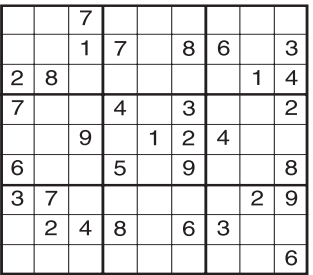
Across

- Helplessness (9)
- Implement (4)
- Monetary (9)
- Diminish (6)
- Feeling (5)
- Surplus (6)
- Suffice (5)
- Box (4)
- Attain (5)
- Society (4)
- In front (5)
- Carrying chair (5)
- Flowing (6)
- Tasty (9)
- Couple (4)
- Verbosity (9)

Down

- Sports (9)
- Agreement (9)
- Chief (4)
- Speechify (5)
- Surplus (6)
- Applaud (4)
- Ague (5)
- Killed (5)
- Short-lived (9)
- Preying (9)
- Pulls (5)
- After (6)
- Dress (5)
- Nothing (4)
- Ado (4)

Sudoku



Fill in the grid above so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS:

4	6	5	9	3	8	7	2	1
1	2	8	6	4	7	3	9	5
9	7	3	5	2	1	4	6	8
3	9	6	4	7	5	8	1	2
8	5	2	1	6	3	9	4	7
7	1	4	8	9	2	5	3	6
2	8	1	3	5	4	6	7	9
5	4	9	7	1	6	2	8	3
6	3	7	2	8	9	1	5	4

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS: CRYPTIC - Across: 1 Cuff; 3 Barracks; 8 Ream; 9 Compared; 11 Intersection; 13 Adrift; 14 Stroll; 17 Contemporary; 20 Drawback; 21 Dido; 22 Suspense; 23 Onus. Down: 1 Cardinal; 2 Flatter; 4 Adores; 5 Repetition; 6 Cargo; 7 Side; 10 Profitable; 12 Playboys; 15 Ovation; 16 Smacks; 18 Orals; 19 Odes. QUICK - Across: 1 Pail; 3 Reminder; 8 Loot; 9 Protrude; 11 Indoctinate; 13 Torrid; 14 Simper; 17 Cheerfulness; 20 Breathe; 21 Fair; 22 Desolate; 23 Else. Down: 1 Palliate; 2 In order; 4 Errors; 5 Intangible; 6 Doubt; 7 Reek; 10 Accidental; 12 Preserve; 15 Prevail; 16 Affect; 18 Heeds; 19 Aged.

Quiz

- What does the acronym 'laser' stand for?
- What do the initials AM stand for?
- Who wrote The Chimes in 1844?
- What type of bath did its inventor design for his 15-month-old rheumatoid arthritic son?
- What is the capital of Zimbabwe?
- What is a sidewinder?
- Who is seventh in line to the throne?
- What is a tamarack?
- What is sometimes called the fourth estate?
- Who wrote A Town Like Alice in 1949?

Last week's solutions:

Quiz: 1 Robert Powell; 2 Carp; 3 1997; 4 Four; 5 Ling; 6 100; 7 Natalia Makarova; 8 Buckingham Palace; 9 La Traviata; 10 Joseph. Niner: SUBALTERN

Niner

Each number from 1 to 9 represents a different letter. Solve the clues and insert the letters in the appropriate squares to discover a word which uses all nine letters.

5285673
41679
52785

gives a hostile outburst,
gives a gesture,
gives a hostile comment.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

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A real taste of the Deep South

AN authentic taste of the American south, but in an unexpected place – Hickory's Smokehouse.

I was there not just to sample the food, but to experience the place. It had burned down almost a year ago, and greatly missed by the community, has been rebuilt again from the ground up.

Hickory's in Kingswinford is now every inch the typical Deep South American smokehouse, but with a few unique differences. Entering the restaurant you can't help but notice the homage to the fire that transformed it; a stencilled phoenix takes pride of place, painted on the centre wall.

BOOTHOS

Cosy red leather-clad booths accommodate parties of up to 12, and we were seated in one that gives us one of the best views in the house. The snazzy bar to the right gives customers the chance to sample the cocktails, while the small cinema gives children the chance to watch a film before their food arrives.

Table tennis is on offer in the garden – the perfect antidote to the abundant portions and there's an open-pit cooking spicy sausage.

Though it's one of a chain of six restaurants around the country, it doesn't feel like one. The décor is kitsch and fun. It's comfortable and cheerful.

We were spoilt for choice when we checked out the menu. For starters, I went for the home-baked American pretzel with garlic dip, while my boyfriend David goes for the Louisiana seafood gumbo. When both dishes arrive we (by that I mean I) decide we'll share. The gumbo was a spicy paella-esque bowl of goodness, just the right size, complete with prawns, mussels, perfectly-cooked rice and a sauce with a spicy kick.

The waiting staff, attentive and pleasant can't do

Hickory's specialises in meat platters



Back where it belongs – Hickory's in Kingswinford



enough for us, and advise to have the Smokehouse Platter. Three different types of ribs, brisket, pulled pork with beans and in-house smoked sausage, it's served with skin-on-fries, coleslaw and pickles.

When it came out on a board almost as big as our kitchen worktop, we momentarily regretted ordering the starters. But the brisket was so tender, the Kansas-style barbecue glazed spare ribs so flavoursome, we couldn't get enough of them.

The staff are very knowledgeable in not only where the meat comes from – a family butcher based in Flint – but

also the best kind of hot sauce to go with it. David is braver than I am, trying the searingly hot psycho juice that immediately turned his face pink, while I stuck with the Cajohns sauce. There's so many to choose from, I lose count. But if condiments aren't really your thing (which they aren't to me) then the meat itself was tasty and tender enough to go without.

We asked for a break between courses, and the staff were more than happy to oblige, praising our attempt to finish off the main. But there was a dessert I'd had my eye on from the start. We ordered the cinnamon

sugar-coated churros and I go for the S'mores. This is described as a crushed ginger nut biscuit base topped with melted chocolate and toasted marshmallow. Upon first bite, it seems incredibly rich, almost sickly. But three bites in and I was addicted.

Next time I think I'll opt for a smaller main, just to make sure I fully enjoy it and finish the other courses. But then again, they do offer doggy bags so you can take away a bit of Louisiana with you. The bill came to £60.95 – not half bad for more than half an animal and two other courses besides.

JESSICA LABHART

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Viewings encouraged for this extended semi-detached property that has so much to offer its next owner

Being superbly presented and beautifully positioned, this extended semi-detached family home in Sebright Road, Wolverley near Kidderminster is for sale through Hicks Hadley at £299,950.

This well maintained property offers very flexible accommodation including a lounge, a fitted kitchen, a dining room, a further sitting room, a fourth reception room/bedroom four and a ground floor bathroom.

To the first floor are three good

WOLVERLEY £299,950

sized bedrooms and a luxury re-fitted bathroom to the first floor which is in an attractive design.

The property also benefits from a blocked paved driveway, gas central heating, double glazing and a large beautifully landscaped rear garden.

In more detail the property has

ample parking to the front thanks to the full width driveway.

The selling agents are expecting a great deal of interest to be shown in the sale of this property as it has so much to offer. It would make a perfect family home.

For further details, or to book that all important viewing to see if this is the ideal next home for you, contact Hicks Hadley on 0121 585 6667 or visit www.hickshadley.com



Recently improved house has well designed accommodation and lies in a popular area

Having well proportioned accommodation, this recently improved three-bedroom semi-detached house in Park Road, Woodsetton, Dudley comes with a utility area and a downstairs WC.

It is for sale through Wakeman at £149,950 with no chain.

With double glazing and gas central heating it has a storm porch, entrance hall, an under-stairs store, a through living room and dining area, a kitchen, utility area,

WOODSETTON £149,950

WC, landing, three bedrooms, a bathroom, gardens and a garage.

The house is situated in a popular and established residential area, close to Bramford Primary School and within close proximity of a wide range of amenities.

In more detail the through living

room and dining area have a bay window and a French window. The kitchen has recently been re-fitted. It includes a breakfast bar and a built-in cooker, gas hob and a stainless steel cooker hood and part tiled walls.

For further information, or to book that all important viewing to see if this is the ideal home for you, contact Wakeman on 01384 459999 or visit www.wakeman-online.com

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HALESOWEN, Sandringham Road£1,350 pcm+Fees
A modern extended detached family home tucked away in this quiet cul de sac on the popular Lodgefield Estate in Halesowen. Featuring entrance hallway, lovely spacious lounge with dining area, 2nd large lounge with brand new wooden flooring, patio doors leading to a very private large rear garden, stunning kitchen with appliances, downstairs w.c. 5 bedrooms, 2 recently refurbished en-suites plus brand new family bathroom with shower, garage & driveway for 2/3 cars. EPC: D



HALESOWEN, Grange Road£975 pcm+Fees
A deceptively spacious detached family with many character features, entrance hallway with parquet flooring, large lounge with multi fuel burner, separate dining room, fitted kitchen, utility, 3 double bedrooms, large refitted bathroom, private long rear garden, large detached garage with electric roller door, gas central heating, double glazed. EPC: E



HALESOWEN, Hagley Road£850 pcm+Fees
A modern unfurnished semi-detached house close to the Squirrels Estate, Halesowen Town Centre & buses to Birmingham. This large house features 2 lovely reception rooms, fitted kitchen with white goods, private rear garden, large storage shed, 3 good size bedrooms, bathroom suite with shower, driveway for 2/3 cars (Front of garage for storage only) Ideal family home. EPC: C



CRADLEY HEATH, High Haden Road£795 pcm+Fees
An individual detached bungalow situated in this very quiet location with outstanding views to the rear of the property. Entrance hallway leading to 2 good size bedrooms, master with fitted wardrobes & en-suite shower room, further family bathroom with shower over bath, large lounge with patio doors opening to a balcony with decking & beautiful private large rear garden, fitted kitchen with appliances, gas central heating, double glazed. EPC: TBC



AMBLECOTE, High Street £775 pcm+Fees
A fantastic opportunity to rent a home on a select development. 'Crystal Gardens' featuring 3 generous size bedrooms (master with en-suite) finished to an exceptional standard. This home features a spacious lounge, well appointed kitchen, downstairs WC, the 1st floor has 2 bedrooms, family bathroom & on the 2nd floor is the master bedroom with a large en-suite, 2 allocated parking spaces, front & rear gardens. EPC: B



HALESOWEN, Manor Lane £700 pcm+Fees
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BRIERLEY HILL, Wychbury Road£675 pcm+Fees
This lovely semi detached house has been recently refurbished to a high standard & comprises of hall, extended lounge & kitchen, dining room, 3 bedrooms, bathroom with shower, tandem garage, front and rear gardens, central heating and double glazing. EPC: D



HALESOWEN, Whittingham Road£675 pcm+Fees
The best position for Newfield Primary School and Halesowen College. This large 3 bedroom semi-detached house features fitted kitchen with double oven and gas hob, utility room/storage area, huge lounge with patio doors to a nice sized rear garden, modern bathroom with 'P' shaped bath and shower, driveway parking and garage. EPC: F



HALESOWEN, Sanderson Place£650 pcm+Fees
Luxury living in Hayley Green. A superb ground floor apartment offering spacious accommodation including open plan lounge/kitchen and diner, 2 double bedrooms, master with en-suite, further well appointed bathroom with shower, gas central heating, double glazing and allocated parking. EPC: B



CRADLEY HEATH, St Anne's Road£650 pcm+Fees
Fully redecorated and new carpets throughout. An unfurnished semi-detached home close to local shops and Cradley Heath Train Station. Featuring 3 good bedrooms, 2 reception rooms, fitted kitchen, bathroom with shower, double glazing, gas central heating, large rear garden and driveway parking for 2 cars. EPC: TBC



HALESOWEN/COLLEY GATE, Barnwood Close£615 pcm+Fees
A well presented newly painted mid terraced property comprising hallway with stairs to first floor, fitted kitchen, large lounge with patio doors to the rear garden, double glazing, gas central heating, double bedroom with fitted wardrobes and a further smaller double, white bathroom suite with shower over bath and tiled floor off road parking at the front of the property. EPC: TBC



HALESOWEN, Mount Street£595 pcm+Fees
Beautifully presented and in the centre of Halesowen. This fantastic mid terrace property features 2 large reception rooms with one having a beautiful feature fire place, a lovely modern fitted kitchen with appliances, large downstairs family bathroom and shower, 2 large double bedrooms and a secluded rear garden. Also benefiting from gas heating, double glazing and on road parking. EPC: D



CRADLEY HEATH, Delingpole Walk£575 pcm+Fees
Located on a popular development, close to local train station is this unfurnished, mid mews house, briefly comprising: gas central heating, living room, fitted kitchen, downstairs wc, 2 bedrooms, bathroom with shower, rear garden, garage. EPC: C



HALESOWEN/BLACKHEATH, Southwick Road£550 pcm+Fees
Located minutes from Blackheath Town Centre and a short drive away from the M5 J2 and Rowley Regis Train Station. This refurbished 2 bed mid-terraced house features a brand new fitted kitchen, 2 lovely reception rooms, private rear garden, white bathroom suite with shower, 2 double bedrooms, on road parking. EPC: D



NETHERTON, Round Street£525 pcm+Fees
Beautifully presented and not to be missed. Set within a popular residential area, this unfurnished semi detached house comprises of a modern living room, fitted kitchen, 1 double bedroom and 1 single bedroom, house bathroom with shower and a conservatory. Benefits also include gas central heating, rear garden, driveway for 2 cars. EPC: D LANDLORD REQUIRES 12 MONTHS DEPOSIT AND A FAMILY MEMBER TO BE A GUARANTOR



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HALESOWEN, Hammersley Close£525 pcm+Fees
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BRIERLEY HILL, Norwood Road£450 pcm+Fees
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HALESOWEN, Somers Road£450 pcm+Fees
An unfurnished ground floor flat close to Halesowen Town Centre. Featuring gas central heating, living room, fitted kitchen, 1 double bedroom, bathroom with shower, on road parking and a rear garden. EPC: TBC



BRIERLEY HILL, Foxdale Drive£425 pcm+Fees
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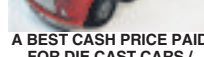
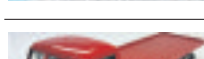
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8 Motoring
cars over £1500

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BMW 325Ci SPORT CONVERTIBLE
Petrol, manual, 2002, 51 plate, dark blue with beige interior and dark blue roof, leather heated seats, electric seats, aircon, MoT July 2018. SH, very good condition.
£2,750 ono
07792 680247.



CHEVROLET SPARK
2012, silver / grey, 24,000 miles, air con, electric windows, stereo, £30 road tax
£2,300 ono.
Telephone 01902 333020



FORD FOCUS STYLE
2008, 119,450 miles, silver, abs, electric windows, air bag, electric mirrors, air con, alarm, MoT, metallic paint, central locking, pas, CD, Facelift model.
£1,650.
07469 316569.



HONDA JAZZ 1.4 ES
60 reg, 89k miles, one owner from new, full Honda history, 12 months MoT.
£3,995 ono.
07960 995748.



MAZDA 1.8 MX5 MK111
2007, blue convertible, MoT July 2018, 59,080 miles, 2 keys, very good condition, £3,900 ono.
01902 333072.



MAZDA MX5 1.8S CONVERTIBLE
MoT 2018, registered 2001. Average mileage, good service record, immaculate. Racing bronze. Alloys. Mohair hood, £1,600.
01221 384 7888.
07771 428793.

SUPERB CONDITION
MERCEDES 3.2 COUPE
2dr, metallic light blue, 41,000 miles from new, history, superb condition. Part exchange considered.
£3,995
01562 710289.



MERCEDES E270 CDI
2004, 139000 miles, MOT to Jan 2018. Elegance trim, Full leather, Climate, Sat nav, 6 CD, Full history, Just serviced, Excellent condition,
£2,495
01562 730897 or
07563 795191. Holy Cross.



MGZT
Silver, 2004 plate. One owner from new. 38,000 genuine miles. 8 months MoT. Alloy wheels.
Bargain, £2,100.
07865 090978.



MINI COOPER 1.6
2005, service history, blue, panoramic roof, all electric, MoT, realhead turner.
£2,200.
07946 383970.



MINI COOPER
2003, mint condition, MoT, green, four new tyres, just serviced, history, fab car, drives as it should.
£1,900.
07946 383970



PEUGEOT 207CC CONVERTIBLE
2007, 81,000 miles, pablo red, e/w, a/c, alarm, 10 months MoT, CD, leather seats, new clutch, brake pads and discs.
£2,100 ono.
07852 975758.

SUPERB CONDITION
RENAULT GRAND SCENIC
2008, 2.0, automatic, 75,000 miles, gold, EW, cruise control, alloys, electric mirrors and windows, MoT to February 2018, service history. Superb condition. Ill health forces sale.
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60 + mpg.
£4,800.
07521 693956.

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07984 719592.

cars under £1500

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07968 308750.



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£650. o.n.o
07503 748161.

BARGAIN
NISSAN MICRA 1.0CC

2002 Reg., 8 months MoT, met silver, good condition, new battery, lady driver, new car forces sale.

£395 o.n.o.
07791 703843.



RENAULT MEGANE CONVERTIBLE
MoT 2018. Head turner, good condition. Full leather trim, face off radio. Some history, life time brakes. Private plates.
£1,000 ono.
07931 657767.

RENAULT SCENIC PRIVILEGE DCi 1.9
2004, approx 110,000 miles, beige, MoT July 2018, good tyres, some scratches on rear corner, drives very nice, reliable Family car, two previous owners.
£575.
07841 604668.

LOOK
SAAB 93 1.9
2006, diesel, MoT December 2017, needs new clutch.
£350
07748 922120

BARGAIN
VAUXHALL ASTRA CLUB 1.6
78k, MoT 28 April 2018, black, 04, EW, AC, good condition throughout, very reliable.
£395 o.n.o
07733 437736.

MUST BE SEEN
VAUXHALL ASTRA MK 3 1600CC
P Reg., 2-dr, automatic, PAS, new tyres and front suspension arms, 44,000 miles, immaculate interior, alloy wheels, superb to drive, ideal for people with mobility issues.
£275
07453 156785.



VAUXHALL CORSA
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£1,450 ono
07518 542487.

BARGAIN
VW GOLF 1.4 MATCH
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07454 365505.

classic cars

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motorbikes

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6 Property

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TWO BED House, Parkfields, W-ton, DG, GCH, recently refurbished. £475pcm. 07813 279763.

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9
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or email: marie.hogg@expressandstar.co.uk

(remember to include a name/contact number for confirmation of receipt)
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10
Personals

personal

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Cat that's got a lot of go in its tank

By Sharon Walters

That can't be right, I thought, as I stopped for coffee almost 200 miles into a long journey. The fuel gauge had barely moved and the on-board computer said... that I still had a range of more than 500 miles. If I could have tapped the gauge (remember when you could do that to wake it up?) I would have.

By the end of my journey, a total of 408 miles, I had not run out of fuel and the gauge was spot on in accuracy. And that's all down to the Wolverhampton-built simply superb Ingenium diesel sitting under the bonnet of my test car – the Jaguar XF R-Sport. It was the 2.0i 180PS version and if you need an executive car and have to pay for your fuel, this could be the one for you.

Apparently, according to official figures, the 66-litre tank will do 954 on a combined cycle. Now sorry Jaguar but that is a little far-fetched – yes I imagine it is possible but the drive would be so, so boring.

However I was very pleased with my fuel returns for such a substantial car over a very busy week's driving on all types of roads. Add CO2 emissions of 114 g/km and the lure of this big cat makes it very attractive.

It's a spacious car but as a driver you feel cocooned in the cockpit. Snug in very comfortable and supportive seats that you can adjust to the perfect driving position for you. Finish is high quality, as you would expect, and all instrumentation is well-laid out and intuitive to use, especially the infotainment system with easy to see icons and also easy to use even when on the move. Climate and temperature controls are also easy to operate and a proper size.



Best-looking car in its class

There are four trim levels to choose from – Prestige, R-sport, Portfolio or the range-topping S. The first three are available with either a 163PS or 180PS 2.0 litre Ingenium diesel engine with the option of AWD and Jaguar's faultlessly smooth 8-speed auto box is also available. The S model is available with either a 300PS V6 diesel or the 380PS V6 petrol.

Prices start at £32,300 on-the-road for the XF 2.0d 163PS Prestige and top out at £49,950 for the sumptuous 3.0i V6 S/C 380 PS S Auto.

Standard equipment is comprehensive including Satellite Navigation, cruise-control with speed limiter (very useful on motorways when the XF can carry you away a little), auto lights and wipers, dual-zone climate control and heated front seats.

Plus all trims get Jaguar Drive Control which offers a choice of four driving modes – Standard, Eco, Dynamic or Snow - via the



It's a stylish package with its sporting saloon looks – wide open front grille, rake roof line and gentle side skirts

touch of a button just below the rotary gear-selector. Standard is perfect for motorways and dynamic was a dream through the lanes and over long winding roads over moors. Snow didn't arrive during my week and I am afraid I enjoyed the drive too much to opt for eco.

My car had the option of Jet/Redzone leather, at no extra cost, which was classy and

with the Italian Red paintwork option at £690, made a stylish package.

And what a stylish package it is from the outside with its sporting saloon looks. There's the wide open front grille, a raked roof line and gentle side skirts.

At launch Jaguar's director of design, Ian Callum, said: "I believe the all-new XF is the best-looking car in its class. Elegant,

handsome and with proportions that imbue a great sense of integrity – the all-new XF is true to the great tradition of sporting Jaguar saloons while being completely of its time."

Well he would say that, wouldn't he? It's his creation.

But I entirely agree with him. He's a designer I've admired for years who continues to get better with age, rather like me!



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MASSIVE SUMMER SALE NOW ON!

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**Sales Line Open Till 10pm Tonight
Call Steve 07747 633329**

Faced with a 500-mile round trip, Simon Davis sees how the Swift fares as a long-distance cruiser

Usually when you're planning a long-distance trip, your car of choice would likely be a large estate or SUV. Something comfortable with plenty of room that will cruise along the motorway with ease.

Our 89bhp Suzuki Swift long-term is the polar opposite of these sorts of cars, and is far more at home darting in and out of inner-city traffic. However, this wasn't going to deter me from taking the little supermini on a 500-mile round trip from Portsmouth to St Helens to visit family.

If I'm honest, the idea of driving the Swift over such distances didn't exactly fill me with joy. Its 1.2-litre petrol engine lacks power and is by no means cut out for prolonged motorway stints, and it also has a tendency to feel ever so slightly twitchy when driven at open road speeds.

Nonetheless, I threw my weekend bag in the Swift's boot, set the sat nav for St Helens and trundled out of Portsmouth early on a Saturday morning.

Now, I'm not intentionally setting out to fault the Swift's capabilities as a long-distance cruiser, but there are a couple of things that became apparent as soon as I hit the motorway. The first was the fact that

**The infotainment system comes with Apple CarPlay**

at motorway speeds there's a huge amount of engine noise that makes itself heard in the cabin. This is largely down to the fact that our Swift is equipped with a five-speed manual transmission, meaning that when you settle down to a cruise, the engine is turning over at about 3,500rpm.

While this kitchen blender-like sound might be bearable during short runs on the motorway, coupled with a significant amount of wind and road noise it quickly becomes irritating. Thankfully, our Swift's touchscreen infotainment system comes with Apple CarPlay, so once I had some music playing from my iPhone I was able to drown the racket out.

The other issue I had with the Swift also concerned the engine – it just has no shove at higher speeds. With only 89bhp and 120Nm on tap, you really need to bury your foot deep into the carpet to get the car moving. Sure, this is ample for getting away from the lights in a timely fashion, but getting up to 70mph takes an age. Given this lack of power, you probably shouldn't even think of overtaking anyone, either.

So, the Swift isn't particularly refined at high speed, and is lacking in the power department. I was getting close to writing it off as nothing more than a glorified shopping trolley, until I realised it was equipped with adaptive cruise control. Normally this isn't a feature to shout and scream about, but up until now I hadn't encountered it in a car in this class. Usually, it's the sort of thing you find in more expensive saloons and SUVs, not a cheap and cheerful supermini.

The idea behind adaptive cruise control is simple, sensors will detect a vehicle travelling in front of you and will alter your speed so that you maintain a constant distance from said vehicle. If they're going slower than your desired speed, simply flick your indicator on, change lane, and the system will accelerate to get you moving again. Basically, it's one less thing you have to focus on on a long drive, meaning you won't be as tired when you eventually get to wherever it is you're going.

As an added bonus, it didn't cost me an arm and a leg in fuel either. It averaged 51.9mpg over the course of the trip. All up, fuel cost me £60, which is a far more reasonable option than the £114 I would have had to pay for a return train ticket.

Our Suzuki Swift is a car that continues to surprise me, in a good way. Sure, I can't say I'm itching to take it on another drive halfway up the country anytime soon, but I'm certainly growing to like it the more time I spend with it.

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Striker Jimmy Murray, who got two goals himself

SPORTS EDITOR: JOHN BIRCHALL

Sporting Star

WOLVERHAMPTON, SATURDAY, AUGUST 18, 1962 No. 1197 3d

Wolves 8-1, Albion 2-2, Villa 3-1, Birmingham 0-3, Walsall 1-4, Shrewsbury 0-5

FOUR-GOAL HARVEST FOR FARMER

And tonic start by Mercer minors

BY JON FARMER and his young Wolves yesterday put the management they thought today and would get a bit of confidence. The Wolves are only a few days away from the start of the season and the first game is a friendly against the local rivals, Albion.

The Wolves have been a bit of a puzzle to the public. The results have not been what was expected. The Wolves have been a bit of a puzzle to the public. The results have not been what was expected. The Wolves have been a bit of a puzzle to the public. The results have not been what was expected.

The Kick-off

Wolves	Albion	Villa	Birmingham	Walsall	Shrewsbury
8-1	2-2	3-1	0-3	1-4	0-5

BILLY WRIGHT: TEAM SHOCK

The Wolves have only been a few days away from the start of the season and the first game is a friendly against the local rivals, Albion.



Ted Farmer, who in four years, netted 57 goals for Wolves



Wolves captain Bill Slater holds the FA Cup aloft in 1960



Ted Farmer scoring after just two minutes against Manchester City

How the Express & Star's Sporting Star newspaper reported the remarkable scoreline from Wolves in 1962

Gr-eight way to kick off season as Wolves fly high

OPTIMISM, enthusiasm and excitement are the emotions all football fans deserve to feel at the start of a new season.

But you can't help but feel that positivity is in short supply for supporters of Yeovil after they saw their team thrashed 8-2 by Luton in their first game on August 5.

The Hatters ran riot on the opening day to send a message to their League Two rivals, and they are now in contention with the top teams of the division.

But they are not the only side to kick off a new campaign in such convincing fashion, as Wolves fans can testify.

Rebuild

It was back on August 18, 1962, that the Molineux men began their season in similar style with victory over Manchester City.

Eager to make up for a disappointing 18th-placed finish in the First Division the previous year, Stan Cullis opted to rebuild his side with the emphasis on youth.

Youngsters Fred Goodwin and David Woodfield

SPORTING FEATURE

By Joseph Masi

It was back on August 18, 1962, that the Molineux men began their season with victory over Manchester City

were handed their debuts for what marked Ron Flowers' first game as Wolves' captain.

And while it was a day where everybody shone, it was Ted Farmer who grabbed the headlines after he notched four stunning goals.

It took the striker just two minutes to break the deadlock - with Farmer latching on to Flowers' throw-in before calmly slotting the ball past the keeper.

Jimmy Murray tapped in for a second when he con-

nected with Alan Hinton's low ball into the box. But it then looked like City would make a fight of it when Wolves' George Showell inadvertently diverted the ball into his own net.

Wolves moved to quickly to deny the visitors hopes of a fightback when Farmer again found the target with a crisp finish just before half-time.

But immediately after the interval, Cullis's side took charge with Wolves grabbing three goals between the 47th and 51st minute.

The first arrived when Terry Wharton drove home from close range. Farmer then sealed his hat-trick with another impressive finish.

The forward then grabbed an assist, which was no doubt just called 'a pass' in those days, when he teed up Hinton for a simple close range finish. From this point, a City side with no answers saw Wolves take complete control.

They made it seven when Farmer sent Hinton away down the wing with his cross then being met by Murray for his second of the game.

Then with 10 minutes to go, Farmer completed the rout with yet another neat finish. Wolves season saw them finish in fifth place, with Everton champions.

Boxing pundit Bunce back for city encore

RENOWNED boxing pundit Steve Bunce will return by popular demand to the ECC Sports and Social Club in Wolverhampton next week.

Bunce's one-man show returns for an encore at the venue on Showell Road on Wednesday.

The 54-year-old is a regular presence on television with broadcasters BoxNation, BT Sport and BBC Sport, along with writing for magazine Boxing Monthly and a host of national newspapers.

London born and bred but now living in Lichfield, Bunce has more than 30 years of experience and has covered the sport for five separate Olympic Games and in excess of 50 shows in Las Vegas.

He will talk freely during his speech and then front questions from the audience. Signed copies of his latest book 'Bunce's Big Fat Short History of British Boxing' and first novel 'The Fixer', will be on sale at £20 the pair.

Tickets cost £12.50 per person or £100 for a table of eight, which includes a buffet. To secure your place, call 01902 424455.

MP: Take gambling logos off club shirts

TOM Watson has called for a ban on betting firms sponsoring football shirts as Labour pledged to tackle the 'hidden epidemic' of gambling addiction.

The West Bromwich East MP and Labour deputy leader unveiled the policy as part of a series of proposals aimed at protecting children from early exposure to betting.

Mr Watson, who is also the party's shadow minister for digital, culture media and sport, said a Labour government would encourage the Football Association to implement its own ban but was prepared to legislate if necessary.

"Football has to play its part in tackling Britain's hidden epidemic of gambling addiction," he said. "Shirt sponsorship sends out a message that football clubs don't take problem gambling among their own fans seriously enough. It puts gambling brands in front of fans of all ages, not just at matches but on broadcasts and highlights packages on both commercial television and the BBC."

Retiring Motty set for date at Banks's

JOHN Motson's retirement season will take in an after-dinner date at Walsall Football Club.

The legendary commentator hangs up his mic at the end of the season after 50 years in the game. Before then, the 72-year-old will use his famous tones at the Banks's Stadium's WFC The Venue on Thursday November 16. Motson began his career with the corporation in 1968, initially as a presenter on Radio 2. Three years later, he joined the Match of the Day team and remained there ever since.

He will have completed his 47th season when he finally hangs up the headset, having commented on more than 1,500 games for television and radio. He has also covered European Championships and World Cups for the channel, the Euro 2008 final being his last live broadcast.

Tickets to see him in Walsall are on sale at £39.50 or £350 for a table of 10 which includes a three-course meal. Book online at www.eticketing.co.uk/walsallfc or call the box office on 01902 651 416, extension 416.



Heathens still aim to sign off in style

CRADLEY boss Will Pottinger's bid for his side to go out with a bang against Eastbourne on Monday was put on hold when their final home league meeting of the season at Monmore was postponed due to downpours.

The Heathens are set to miss out on the Travel Plus National League play-offs but Pottinger says they are determined to give their loyal fans something to shout about.

They still have the second leg of their Knockout Cup tie with Belle Vue to take place at Perry Barr on Wednesday, October 27 while plans are in place to host their showpiece Golden Hammer individual event to close the season at Monmore Green in October.

Patched-up Cradley were thrashed 60-28 at Mildenhall on Sunday. The Heathens headed to West Row with just Danny Ayres available from their regular contingent, and they were well beaten on a tough afternoon. Guest Connor Coles impressed against his former club, while Ayres was also in the thick of the action throughout. But they had no answer to the Fen Tigers and were second best from start to finish.

MILDENHALL 60: Jordan Jenkins 14, Connor Mountain 10+2, Drew Kemp 10+2, Jon Armstrong 10+1, Dan Halsey 9, Alex Spooner 7+3, Luke Ruddick r/r.

CRADLEY 28: Connor Coles 13, Danny Ayres 7, William O'Keefe 6, Joe Alcock 2+1, Jamie Bursill 0, Lewis Whitmore 0, Richard Hall r/r.

A new date has yet to be set for the visit by Eastbourne.

New academy team sees club join forces with college

STOURBRIDGE FC and Dudley College have teamed up to provide talented 16-18-year-olds with football training and the chance to play at a competitive level and work towards a B-Tec Qualification, the equivalent of two A-Levels.

Around 15 youngsters have signed up and the academy team will compete in the Conference Youth Alliance against teams like Kidderminster, Solihull Moors and Sutton Coldfield Town.

They will attend college three days a week and train two days, under Academy manager John Kearney.

Club vice chairman Andy Bullingham, who has worked on the project for three years, said the education part of the programme is critical. He added: "We needed to find an education provider that could be trusted to teach and develop the lads academically. This was vital so that is why it took a while to get the academy off the ground."

"It is wonderful to team up with Dudley College who are one of the best established colleges in the area."

The academy team's first game at Mansfield Town yesterday (Wednesday).

Rutter is third at wet Silverstone



Brierley Hill racer Michael Rutter

MICHAEL Rutter recorded his ninth podium finish of the season with third place at Silverstone.

The Brierley Hill racer guided his BMW S1000RR to third place at the Pirelli National Superstock 1000 Championship at Silverstone to maintain third overall in the title standings.

Rutter qualified second on the grid with a 2min 10.8sec lap in shortened qualifying session due to a torrential downpour, and Richard Cooper clinched a last lap victory over Chrissy Rouse with Rutter completing the top three.

"It was quite a difficult weekend in terms of the weather," said Rutter. "We hardly got any decent track time during practice and qualifying and I only managed something like 11 laps prior to the race. We didn't get time to work on set-up as no sooner had we done a flying lap, rain came and brought everything to an early end."

After posting the second fastest time in Friday's practice, Saturday's qualifying session was hit by rain. The next round takes place at Oulton Park September 15-17.

Glassboys bounce back at Barwell

Barwell 1 Stourbridge 2
STOURBRIDGE substitute Josh Cooke came off the bench to bag the winner in this fractious encounter.

It was set-up by another Glassboys replacement with Tom Tonks launching a throw into the box with his first touch of the game on his return to the club from Solihull Moors.

The Glassboys took the lead from the penalty spot after just four minutes. Matt Dodd jinked his way inside the Barwell area only to be upended by Liam Kay. RRyan Rowe made no mistake from the spot.

Home keeper Matt Gould was called on after a penalty was awarded to Barwell. He guessed correctly and pulled off the save from Ryan Robbins.

The visitors were awarded a second penalty 12 minutes after the break when Leon Broadhurst charged down a Nigel Julien shot with the use of his arm and Kyle Perry sent Gould the wrong way to level the scores.

Glassboys hit the winner 17 minutes from time through super-sub Cooke who volleyed in Tonks's throw-in.

Stalybridge 3 Stourbridge 1

Liam Dickinson slammed home a penalty for lowly Stalybridge four minutes before half-time after Gould had fouled Tom Brown. Dickinson then made it 2-0 with a low driven free-kick that whistled through the wall and in off the post. Alex Honeyball administered the final blow. Leon Broadhurst bagged Stour's consolation.

Stour's penultimate match is abandoned

IT is in Stourbridge's own hands to avoid the drop from division three of the Birmingham and District League after salvaging seven points from their abandoned match against Handsworth.

There are 24 points separating Brewood and Stourbut Stour must not incur penalty points.

The visitors made an early break through as Handsworth reached 118 for 4. But 20 minutes into Stour's innings another heavy shower put an end to the match, both sides awarded five points each.

Stour take on league leaders Astwood Bank in the final match of the season.

POOR YELTZ HIT ROCK BOTTOM

Halesowen Town 1 Witton Albion 3
HALESOWEN TOWN dropped to the bottom of the Evo-Stik Premier table after being outplayed by second-placed Witton Albion.

Once again, Yeltz fell behind to early goals as Albion went 2-0 up within 19 minutes in a great display of football from the in-form visitors in front of a crowd of 208 on Tuesday night.

Lively Witton wideman Matty Devine caused all sorts of problems with his probing runs. He danced through the home defence and although his 16th-minute shot was blocked, Will Jones slotted home the rebound with ease.

It was 2-0 just three minutes later when Steven Tames smashed home a penalty after Asa Charlton was penalised for handball.

The hosts posed little threat up front and were cut up again in the 34th minute, however 'keeper Dan Platt made a fantastic reflex save from Tames to save Halesowen's blushes at the end of a lightning attack.

Superior

Full-back Jack Kelly pulled a goal back for Halesowen by firing home after Witton failed to clear a 59th-minute corner.

But Witton continued to be superior in the second half as they hit the crossbar after 62 minutes. They went close again in the 85th minute when Jones struck wide following good work from Prince Haywood.

Albion then deservedly wrapped up the points in the 89th minute after Platt failed to gather a left-wing corner, leaving Haywood to follow up from 12 yards.

Saturday's match at Ashton United was postponed after the Hurst Cross pitch was waterlogged after downpours.

Next the Yeltz face Farsley Celtic away on Saturday after the Yorkshire side beat Grantham Town 3-0 on Tuesday.

Gaskin grasps big opportunity



45-year-old Stourbridge athlete Chris Gaskin excels at swimming, cycling and running

A STOURBRIDGE athlete will be competing alongside the likes of Jonny Brownless and Jodie Stimpson in the ITU World Triathlon Championships in Rotterdam this weekend.

Chris Gaskin, aged 45, will represent Team GB in the event on Saturday and Sunday – just two years since first taking up the sport.

However, he nearly didn't get there after failing to register his interest following a race in June.

Gaskin first set his sights on the worlds after winning a series of I events. He said: "In order to get to the championships there were three qualifying events held across the country. To get automatic qualification you had to finish in the top four in any one of the three events."

In June, he finished third in his age category

at the Llandudno Sea Triathlon, an 800m sea swim, a 20Km bike leg and a 5km run to the finish line, which would have guaranteed qualification.

"However, I stupidly failed to register my interest to British Triathlon that I wanted to compete at the world championships, so my result didn't count. Naturally I was devastated, as I had trained so hard for this competition," he said.

A competition in Redcar in July gave Gaskin the last chance to qualify and fifth place over a 750m swim, 20k cycle and 5k, proved enough to earn a place.

"The realisation that I would be racing at such a huge event felt truly amazing. It's been a real fairytale for me," he added.

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